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If you only need the buying answer

The cheapest short-term route for **Criminological Theories** is digital, not the current print listing. That said, the current print listing is below the sampled rental-plus-fee path, below the sampled used-buy path, and far below the sampled new-print price. So if you want to own the book rather than borrow access, the current print route still compares well.

Format	Source	Price	
Print	Merybook	\$65.98	Check price
Digital (180 days)	Digital market	\$52.00	Check price
Paperback rental	Used rental market	\$62.50	Check price
Used buy	Used market	\$93.75	Check price
New buy	Print market	\$125.00	Check price

This is therefore a balanced market. Digital wins if you only care about short-term price. Print wins if you want a keepable theory text and prefer a lower ownership cost than the broader print market is offering.

What this book actually teaches

A criminological-theory text matters because it teaches students how different schools of thought explain crime, social control, deviance, inequality, institutions, and policy response. A good theory book helps students compare frameworks rather than memorize names. That comparison work is exactly why theory texts often stay useful beyond one course.

Students in criminology, sociology, criminal justice, and policy often come back to theory later because later courses still ask them to interpret crime through competing frameworks. That makes ownership a reasonable choice when the print price is already

competitive.

Who should choose digital and who should buy print

Choose digital if your only goal is lowest short-term cost. Buy print if you want a kept theory text and prefer ownership over temporary access. In the current market, digital wins on short-term price and print wins on ownership value.

Sources checked

- [Merybook print listing search](#)
- [General market search for ISBN 9780190935252](#)