

SOCIOLOGY 245
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
SPRING 2009
W/F 6b

Instructor	Vince P. Ramunni
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TEXT: Regoli, Robert M., and John D. Hewitt. Delinquency in Society, Seventh Edition.
New York: McGraw Hill, 2008.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will explore the many factors contributing to delinquent behavior in our society, both past and present. We will review theories of delinquency and examine current approaches to prevention and treatment of delinquent behavior, specifically the Balanced Approach and Restorative Justice. The class will also take an in-depth look at various forms of delinquency, and social factors that contribute to delinquency. Students will develop an understanding of how the juvenile justice system operates on the county and state level in Pennsylvania.

GOALS:

- To gain an understanding of the history of delinquency and the necessity of the Juvenile Court in America
- To review and discuss major sociological theories that deal specifically with delinquent behavior
- To identify delinquent behavior in its various forms, and the many approaches to the prevention of recidivism
- To examine the philosophy of the Balanced Approach and Restorative Justice
- To gain empathy for those different than ourselves

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Scoring- The final grade will be based on a total of 400 points, with this breakdown:

-Mid Term (100 points)=	100 points
-Two quizzes (25 points each)=	50 points
-Two Literary Reviews (25 points each)=	50 points
-Writing Assignment/Project (100 points total)=	100 points
-Final Exam (100 points)=	<u>100 points</u>
	400 points total

Tests and quizzes will be based on information gathered from required reading, lecture notes, and class videos. Writing assignments will be assigned as the semester progresses.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

While it is understood that there are circumstances that would prevent a student from attending class (illness, family emergency), **regular attendance is fully expected.** The student, in such a case, is expected to **notify the instructor** as soon as possible of the situation. Students should also check with the instructor regarding missed work or assignments.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Students should acquaint themselves with the college's policy on Academic Honesty in the current **Student Handbook**, specifically both sections entitled "Plagiarism" and "Cheating." Any student found to have not upheld the college's policy shall be dismissed from the course, and assigned a grade of F. Students are urged to see the instructor if they have any questions regarding this matter.

COURSE OUTLINE AND LECTURE TOPICS:

The instructor, with cooperation from the class, will make every effort to cover the following list of topics. This list, however, is subject to modification to best fit the needs of the class. Students will be given weekly reading assignments, and should be ready at all times to discuss text chapters. Each student should expect to work at least five hours per week outside of class, not including study time for tests and quizzes.

LIST OF TOPICS:

- A brief history of juvenile delinquency
- Gathering statistics and reading and understanding reports
- Defining delinquency and explaining the Crimes Code
- Social factors contributing to delinquency
- Theories of delinquency
- The family and delinquency
- Schools and delinquency
- Youth Gangs
- Drug and Alcohol use
- The Court system and process
- Certification to Criminal Court and Excluded Offenses
- Probation services
- The Balanced Approach and Restorative Justice
- Rights of juveniles
- Corrections and institutions
- Prevention of delinquency

LIST OF VIDEOS AND DVDs:

In accordance with college policy, the following is a list of videos and/or DVDs that may be viewed during class this semester:

- "Heroin Epidemics" (MSNBC 1/07/01)
- "Street Gangs: A Secret History" (A&E Television Networks 2001)
- "Bullied to Death" (A&E Home Video 2001)

*Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

