

SOCIOLOGY 245
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
SPRING 2010
M/W 5b

Instructor Vince P. Ramunni
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TEXT: Regoli, Robert M., and John D. Hewitt. Delinquency in Society, Eighth Edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2010.

(Supplemental readings to be announced throughout the semester)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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

COURSE 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

GRADING:

Your final grade will be based on a total of 450 points, with this breakdown:

-Mid Term (100 points)=	100 points
-Class Participation (50 points)=	50 points
-Two quizzes (25 points each)=	50 points
-Two Journal Reviews (25 points each)=	50 points
-Writing/Oral Assignments (100 points total)=	100 points
-Final Exam (100 points)=	<u>100 points</u>
	450 points total

Tests and quizzes will be based on information gathered from required reading, lecture notes, and class videos. Due dates for Journal Reviews and Writing/Oral Assignments will be assigned as the semester progresses.

Course grades follow the letter-grade system. Please consult the **Student Handbook** for description of the requirements for attaining each grade. The numerical ranges used in assigning each letter grade in this course are as follows:

A	93-100%	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C -	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

COURSE POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE:

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. This is your responsibility!

Attendance will be reflected in your Class Participation grade. Therefore, students may not make up class activities that take place during classes for which they are absent.

MISSED TESTS, QUIZZES, AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Every possible effort should be made to take exams and quizzes on the scheduled dates. Test and quiz dates will be announced with at least a ten day notice. Late papers will be accepted with a penalty (10% deduction) for each day that they are late (including weekends and holidays).

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 topics listed below. The 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 during class. 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

PLEASE NOTE:

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.

