

SOCIOLOGY 245 Z
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
FALL 2011

Instructor Vince P. Ramunni
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TEXT: Regoli, Robert M., John D. Hewitt and Matt DeLisi. Delinquency in Society: The Essentials. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, 2011.
ISBN-13: 9780763777906

(Supplemental readings to be announced throughout the semester)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will explore the many contributing factors 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 levels 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

GRADING:

Scoring- The final grade will be based on a total of 450 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
Class Participation (50 points)=	50 points
Writing Assignment/Project (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. Writing 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

While tangible grades are widely used to determine a student's final grade for the semester, it is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for a course.

COURS POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

While it is understood that there are circumstances that could prevent a student from attending class (illness, family emergency), **regular attendance is fully expected. This class will include activities done during class time that will be difficult to make up at a later date.** If a class is missed, 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 the responsibility of the student!

Attendance will be reflected in your Class Participation grade. Because regular attendance is expected, students may find it difficult to make up class activities that take place during classes for which they are absent.

Class participation, for the purpose of this semester, will be measured by student attendance, attentiveness, and contribution to discussion.

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 following list of topics. This list of topics and the syllabus in general are 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 to ten hours per week outside of class, not including study time for tests and quizzes.

(See complete list of topics on next page)

LIST OF TOPICS AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week One (August 29)

- The syllabus and other formalities
- Brief history of Juvenile Delinquency (from Chapter 1)
- A Word on Statistics and Understanding Reports (from Chapter 2)
- Introduction to Theories of Delinquency

Week Two (September 12)

- Explaining the Crimes Code and Defining Delinquency
- Social Factors that Contribute to Delinquency
- Theory Presentations

Week Three (September 19)

- Causes of Delinquency
- The Family and Delinquency (Chapter 7)
- Theory Presentations

Week Four (September 26)

- Schools and Delinquency (Ch. 8)
- Theory Presentations
- Review for Mid Term

Week Five (October 3)

- Mid Term Exam

Week Six (October 17)

- Violence and Delinquency (Ch. 9)
- Drug Use and Delinquency (Ch. 9)

Week Seven (October 24)

- Drug Use and Delinquency continued (Chapter 9)

Week Eight (October 31)

- The Juvenile Court (Chapter 12)
- Juvenile Rights (Chapter 12)
- Certification and Excluded Offenses

Week Nine (November 7)

- The Juvenile Court continued (Chapter 12)
- Juvenile Rights continued (Ch. 12)
- Certification and Excluded Offenses continued

Week Ten (November 14)

- The Balanced Approach and Restorative Justice

Week Eleven (November 21)

- Corrections and Probation Services (Chapter 13)

Week Twelve (November 28)

- Delinquency Prevention (Chapter 14)

Week Thirteen (December 5)

- Closing Thoughts
- Review for Final Exam

Week Fourteen (December 12)

- Final Exam 6:30pm

PLEASE NOTE:

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services. Those interested 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.

