

SOCIOLOGY 245
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
SPRING 2013
M/W 235pm-345pm

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, including 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 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 500 points, with this breakdown:

Mid Term (100 points)=	100 points
Two quizzes (50 points each)=	100 points
Literary Review (50 points)=	50 points
Class Participation/Reading Notes (50 points)=	50 points
Writing Assignment/Project (100 points)=	100 points
Final Exam (100 points)=	<u>100 points</u>
	500 points total

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

COURES POLICIES

ATTENDANCE:

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 includes activities done during class time that may 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 your responsibility!

Each unexcused absence will result in a 5 point deduction from the final Class Participation grade. Students using cell phones or any other unnecessary electronic devices during class shall be considered absent from that class and will incur a 5 point deduction as they would for an unexcused absence.

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

MISSED TESTS, QUIZZES, AND 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.

Hard copies of all papers and written assignments must be submitted in person at the beginning of class on the given due date. **In short, do not email your papers!** Any paper or assignment not submitted in this fashion will be considered late. Late papers will be accepted with a penalty (10% deduction) for each day 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 (January 14-16)

- The syllabus and other formalities
- Brief history of Juvenile Delinquency (from Ch. 1)
- A Word on Statistics and Understanding Reports (from Ch. 2)

Week Two (January 23)

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

Week Three (January 28-30)

- Causes of Delinquency
- Introduction to Theories of Delinquency
- The Family and Delinquency (Ch. 7)

Week Four (February 4-6)

- The Family and Delinquency (Ch. 7)
- Theory Presentations

Week Five (February 11-13)

- Schools and Delinquency (Ch. 8)
- Theory Presentations

Week Six (February 18-20)

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

Week Seven (February 25-27)

- Mid Term Exam
- Violence and Delinquency (Ch. 9)

Week Eight (March 11-13)

- Violence and Delinquency (Ch. 9)
- Drug Use and Delinquency (Ch. 9)
- Certification and Excluded Offenses

Week Nine (March 18-20)

- Drug Use and Delinquency (Ch. 9)
- The Juvenile Court (Ch. 12)
- Juvenile Rights (Ch. 12)
- Certification and Excluded Offenses

Week Ten (March 25-27)

- The Juvenile Court (Ch. 12)
- Juvenile Rights continued (Ch. 12)

Week Eleven (April 3)

- The Balanced Approach and Restorative Justice

Week Twelve (April 8-10)

- The Balanced Approach continued
- Corrections and Probation Services (Ch. 13)

Week Thirteen (April 15-17)

- Corrections and Probation Services Continued (Ch. 13)
- Delinquency and Prevention (Ch. 14)

Week Fourteen (April 22-24)

- Closing Thoughts
- Review for Final Exam

Final Exam (May 1)

- Final Exam 830am

PLEASE NOTE:

Students requesting accommodations in this class due to a disability should contact the assistant director of Academic and Disability Support in the Academic Support Center, Monocacy Hall, lower level (extension 7625). 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.

