

SOCIOLOGY 245PM
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
FALL 2014
Monday 630pm

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 explores the many contributing factors to delinquent behavior in our society, both past and present. Theories of delinquency are examined, as well as current approaches used in the prevention and treatment of delinquent behavior, including the Balanced Approach and Restorative Justice. This class also takes an in-depth look at various forms of delinquency. Students can expect to 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 550 points, with this breakdown:

Two quizzes (50 pts each)	100 points
Mid Term Exam	100 points
Literary Review	50 points
Theory Project	50 points
Final Project	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Class Participation	<u>50 points</u>
	550 points total

Tests and quizzes will be based on information gathered from required reading, lecture notes, and class discussions. Due dates for literary reviews and other projects will be assigned as the semester progresses.

Course grades follow the letter-grade system. Of course, it is within the instructor's control and authority to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course. Please consult the **Student Handbook** for a 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

CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENTS:

Class Meeting Time (14 classes)	42 hours
Mid Term Exam Preparation	10 hours
Quiz Preparation (two total)	10 hours
Writing Assignments (two total)	30 hours
Reading Assignments (14 chapters)	42 hours
Project (including community activities)	30 hours
Final Exam Preparation	<u>20 hours</u>
Total Estimated Hours	<u>184 hours</u>

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).

Students will be given weekly reading assignments and should be ready at all times to discuss text chapters.

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 list of topics on the following page. This list of topics and the syllabus in general are subject to modification to best fit the needs of the class.

Each student should expect to work at least 5 to 10 hours per week outside of class in order to complete all reading and writing assignments and to adequately prepare for tests and quizzes.

PLEASE NOTE: Students in this class who wish to request accommodations for a disability must contact Ms. Elaine Mara, assistant director of academic support services for academic and disability support, at the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

LIST OF TOPICS AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week One (August 25)

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

Week Two (September 1)

- Causes of Delinquency
- Theory Project Assigned
- Class Project

Week Three (September 8)

- Review of Theories of Delinquency
- Class Project

Week Four (September 15)

- The Family and Delinquency (Ch. 7)
- Theory Project Due/Discussions
- Class Project

Week Five (September 22)

- The Family and Delinquency (cont)
- Schools and Delinquency (Ch. 8)
- Quiz #1

Week Six (September 29)

- Schools and Delinquency (cont)
- Review for Mid Term Exam
- Class Project

Week Seven (October 6)

- Mid Term Exam
- Literary Review Assigned

Week Eight (October 13)

- NO CLASS

Week Nine (October 20)

- Violence and Delinquency (Ch. 9)
- Drug Use and Delinquency (Ch. 9)
- Literary Review Due
- Class Project

Week Ten (October 27)

- Quiz #2
- The Juvenile Court (Ch. 12)
- Juvenile Rights (Ch. 12)

Week Eleven (November 3)

- The Juvenile Court (cont)
- Juvenile Rights (cont)
- Certification and Excluded Offenses

Week Twelve (November 10)

- The Balanced Approach and Restorative Justice
- Final Class Project

Week Thirteen (November 17)

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

Week Fourteen (November 24)

- NO CLASS

Week Fifteen (December 1)

- Class Project Discussion
- Review for Final Exam

Final Exam Monday, December 8, 2014 at 630pm