

SOCIOLOGY 245PM  
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY  
FALL 2015  
Monday 630pm

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**TEXT:** Regoli, Robert M., John D. Hewitt and Matt DeLisi. Delinquency in Society, Ninth Edition. Burlington: Jones and Bartlett, 2014.

(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:**

- Gain an understanding of the history of delinquency and the necessity of the Juvenile Court in America
- Review and discuss major sociological theories that deal specifically with delinquent behavior
- Identify delinquent behavior in its various forms and the many approaches to the prevention of recidivism
- Examine the philosophy of the Balanced Approach and Restorative Justice
- 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	184 hours

### **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. Likewise, students who leave class early 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.

Students using laptop computers or other devices to take notes during class should be prepared to submit those notes upon request.

### **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 who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Academic Support Center, located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall (extension 1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

## LIST OF TOPICS AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

### Week One (August 31)

- The syllabus and other formalities
- Defining Delinquency ( Ch. 1)
- Measuring Delinquency (Ch. 2)
- Discussion – Class Project

### Week Two (September 7)

- Causes of Delinquency (Ch3-5)
- Theory Project Assigned
- Class Project

### Week Three (September 14)

- Review of Theories of Delinquency
- Class Project

### Week Four (September 21)

- Quiz #1
- The Family and Delinquency (Ch. 9)
- Theory Project Due/Discussions
- Class Project

### Week Five (September 28)

- The Family and Delinquency (cont)
- Schools and Delinquency (Ch. 10)
- Review for Mid Term Exam

### Week Six (October 5)

- Mid Term Exam
- Literary Review Assigned

### Week Seven (October 12)

- BREAK- NO CLASS

### Week Eight (October 19)

- Violence and Delinquency (Ch. 11)
- Drug Use and Delinquency (Ch. 11)

### Week Nine (October 26)

- Violence and Delinquency (Ch. 11)
- Drug Use and Delinquency (Ch. 11)
- Literary Review Due
- Class Project

### Week Ten (November 2)

- Quiz #2
- The Juvenile Court (Ch. 13)
- Juvenile Rights

### Week Eleven (November 9)

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

### Week Twelve (November 16)

- The Balanced Approach and Restorative Justice
- Class Projects Due

### Week Thirteen (November 23)

- Class Project Discussions
- Corrections and Probation Services

### Week Fourteen (November 30)

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

### Week Fifteen (December 7)

- Delinquency and Prevention (cont)
- Review for Final Exam

\*Final Exam Monday, December 14, 2015 at 630pm\*