

CJ 396.03  
Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Justice  
Spring 2008

Instructor: George J. Day  
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Class Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.  
Classroom: CJC C110  
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Friday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Additional hours by appointment

**Required textbook:**

Schmallenger, Frank. & Bartollas, Clemens (2008). *Juvenile Delinquency*. Boston, MA: Pearson and Bacon.

**Course Description:**

This course deals with the nature and extent of juvenile delinquency, explanatory models and theories. Specific topics include: the juvenile justice system; history, philosophy, and evaluation of the juvenile court, juvenile court practices and procedures; the role of the police officer and the correctional officer.

**Course Objectives:** by the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Identify basic definitions, measurement techniques and concepts in the study of juvenile offenders.
2. Understand the theoretical perspectives related to juvenile delinquency.
3. Become familiar with the life course and developmental perspective which helps to explain continued antisocial behavior into adulthood
4. develop the ability to think critically about juvenile crime and its causes
5. Identify the impact that gender, race, social class, and place of residence can have during adolescence.
6. Understand the operation of the juvenile justice system and the actors involved in that process.
7. Understand and discuss prevention and intervention options available to delinquent youths.

**Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and actively participate in the class. Students will be allowed up to 3 excused absences. **Each excess excused and all unexcused absences will result in a 1% deduction from the student's overall grade.**

You are expected to arrive to class on time and not to leave early. With the exception of an emergency you are expected to let the instructor know ahead of time if you must leave early. Do not interrupt the instructor or the class with your personal entrances and/or exits. If you must be absent, notify the instructor through your student e-mail account prior to the next scheduled class session. *Additionally, you are to get two "class buddies" to take notes, inform you of assignments, etc. when you miss class. Do not contact the instructor to find out what you missed.*

**Student Absences/Religious holidays:** Absences may be excused for health, emergency or religious reasons. Absences are considered excused with documentation from a licensed physician confirming illness or family emergency. The note does not need to detail the illness or emergency, simply confirm the

general cause of the absence. Documentation from other sources will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

For more information on absences due to religious holidays please refer to:

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

### Grading Policy

Final course grades will be assessed on the following scale:

"A"	90-100
"B"	80-89
"C"	70-79
"D"	60-69
"F"	0-59

### Required Course Work:

Reading and classroom participation: Reading assignments are to be completed prior to class according to the course outline. Students are expected to be familiar enough with assigned reading to be enabled to apply the material to class discussions as well as to respond to written and oral questions based on the readings. *The instructor reserves the right to give unannounced quizzes during any class session in which (a) less than 75% of the students are in attendance and/or (b) there is a lack of participation that would indicate that students are not completing reading assignments.*

Exams: There will be four exams (the last one being the final) during the semester. Each exam is worth a maximum of 20% of the final grade. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, essay and/or short answer questions.

Quizzes/review activities: The class period prior to each exam will be set aside for finishing up any incomplete lectures and providing a test review. Test reviews will include a quiz over the material to be covered in the upcoming exam and will be worth up to 5 bonus points for the exam.

Research paper: Students will be required to complete one 5-7 page research paper during the semester. Research papers must follow APA format throughout (i.e. title page, in-text citations, reference page, margins, font and font size, etc.). Students' writing skills and general level of sophistication displayed will be major factors in the grade. Submitted papers should reflect college level writing skills. This means that there will be no spelling errors, a minimum of grammatical errors, and must be well organized and cohesive. If you know that your writing skills are not as good as they should be, please ask for assistance from the University Writing Center. You are expected to use a minimum of 5-7 academic sources in your paper. Examples of acceptable sources include academic journals and recent books in criminal justice and sociology. General textbooks (such as the one for this class), dictionaries, and encyclopedias are not acceptable sources. Do not use internet sources that do not give the author's name and affiliation. When in doubt, ask the instructor.

Available topics for the paper include:

- ✓ Choose any criminal justice theory (see chapters 3-6) and explain the theory in detail, including its historical and/or intellectual development (about 2/3 of the paper). Then discuss how the chosen theory applies to juvenile justice (about 1/3 of the paper).
- ✓ Research a social phenomena related to juvenile justice (broken homes, alcohol and drug abuse, gangs, peer pressure, etc.) using academic journals available from the library database. Write a brief review of the current literature on the chosen topic (chosen literature should be no more than 10 years old).

- ✓ Other topics or research paper ideas will be allowed at the instructor's discretion. If you have a topic related to juvenile justice that you are interested in that doesn't fall into one of the two above, speak to the instructor for topic approval.

The research paper is worth a maximum of 20% of the final grade and due dates for the writing process is as follows:

Step	Due date	Description
Topic	Feb 8	25-50 word description of your topic submitted by e-mail attachment. Worth 5% of total grade on paper.
Rough draft	Mar 19	Submit hard and electronic copy of 1 <sup>st</sup> draft of paper. Worth 5% of total grade on paper. Rough draft should include all elements required of the final paper and will be heavily proofread and returned.
Final Copy	Apr 21	Completed paper is due. Papers are to be submitted in hard copy to the instructor in class and electronically to <a href="http://www.turnitin.com">www.turnitin.com</a> (instructions to follow later) and to the instructor.

**Late papers and make-up exams will not be accepted without prior approval obtained from the instructor based on extenuating circumstances. A score of 0 (zero) will be given for papers or exams not received at the scheduled time without said approval.** Extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to: religious observances, military deployment or TDY duty, court appearances or jury duty, family emergencies, job-related emergencies, or personal or immediate family illness. To be allowed to take a make-up exam, you must contact the instructor by e-mail **prior** to the date/time of the exam. All make-up exams will be essay/short answer in format and will be given at the instructor's convenience. To be considered for an extension on the research paper, application must be made through your Sam Houston State e-mail account in a timely manner. Application for an extension should include a brief statement of the problem necessitating the request and an estimated date for completion of the assignment. *The burden of proof is on you. I do not owe you an extension for completing assignments.*

**Conduct:** students are expected to act in a professional manner at all times in the classroom. *Students failing to act in a professional manner will be asked to leave the classroom and be penalized 5% of their final grade. Students that have to be asked to leave more than once will fail the class.* Professionalism includes, but is not limited to:

- ✓ Punctuality
- ✓ Civility and courtesy to everyone in class, including your instructor
- ✓ Use of tobacco products in the classroom or elsewhere in the building is prohibited
- ✓ It is inappropriate to wear hats, caps, "do-rags", or sunglasses in the classroom
- ✓ Sleeping, reading newspapers, books, or studying for other courses during class is prohibited.
- ✓ Unless you are on-call or are dealing with some type of emergency, turn your cell phones off (or set to vibrate) during class time.
- ✓ Pagers, MP3 players, text messaging systems, games, etc. must be turned off during class. Laptops are permitted for the purpose of taking notes as long as your wireless network card is disabled during class (i.e. no checking e-mail, or 'surfing' the internet during class).

**Academic ethics:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating, plagiarism, substituting work from another class, and submitting someone else's work as your own are considered academic dishonesty. If you are caught engaging in such behavior you will receive an automatic "F" for the course and you will be referred to the dean of undergraduate studies for further action.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the act of not properly crediting your sources of information through the proper utilization of textual citations and a source list. If it is not a product of your own original research, your own ideas, thoughts, or words you must cite your source in your text. You must also include a works cited list. Failure to do so will be considered academic dishonesty and penalized as outlined above.

The university's policy towards cheating and plagiarism can be found at the following website:

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf)

#### **Disabled Student Policies and Service Information:**

Students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. The physically impaired may contact the Director of Counseling Services as Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (ext. 1720).

For more information about University policy toward and services to disabled students see the links below:

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf)

<http://www.shsy.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

**Class Schedule** – subject to change at instructor’s discretion

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required reading</b>
Jan. 16	Course introduction	
Jan 18	Adolescence and delinquency	Chapter 1
Jan 21	MLK Day – No Class	
Jan 23	Adolescence and delinquency – continued	
Jan 24 & 28	Measurement and nature of delinquency	Chapter 2
Jan 30 & Feb 1	Individual causes of delinquency	Chapter 3
Feb 4 & 6	Social structural causes of delinquency	Chapter 4
Feb 8	Quiz & review	
	<i>Research paper topic due</i>	
<b>Feb 11</b>	<b>Exam #1</b>	
Feb 13, 15 & 18	Social process theories of delinquency	Chapter 5
Feb 20 & 22	Social interactionist theories of delinquency	Chapter 6
Feb 25 & 27	Gender and delinquency	Chapter 7
Feb 29 & Mar 3	The family and delinquency	Chapter 8
Mar 5	Quiz & review	
<b>Mar 7</b>	<b>Exam #2</b>	
Mar 10-14	SPRING BREAK!!!!	
Mar 17 & 19	The school and delinquency	Chapter 9
	<i>Rough draft due</i>	
Mar 21	Good Friday – no class	
Mar 24	School and delinquency – continued	
Mar 26, 28, & 31	Gangs and delinquency	Chapter 10
Apr. 2 & 4	Drugs and delinquency	Chapter 11
Apr 7 & 9	Prevention, diversion, & treatment	Chapter 12
Apr 11	Quiz & review	
<b>Apr 14</b>	<b>Exam #3</b>	
Apr 16 & 18	Juvenile justice process	Chapter 13
Apr 21 & 23	Juveniles and the police	Chapter 14
	<i>Research paper due (Apr 21)</i>	
Apr 25 & 28	The juvenile court	Chapter 15
Apr 30 & May 2	Juvenile Corrections	Chapter 16
May 5	TBA	
May 7	Quiz & review	
	<b>Final exam TBA</b>	