



**CJ 326.001  
Juvenile Delinquency  
Spring 2013  
MWF 9:00 am – 9:50 p.m.  
(Web-enhanced))**

**Professor:** Elvira White-Lewis, JD/Ph.D.

**Office Location:** Ferguson Social Science 231

**Office Hours:** MW, 10-11am and 12-1pm and by appointment

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**Class Location:** Wathena Temple Fine Arts 131

#### **COURSE INFORMATION**

##### **Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

**Textbook Required:** Whitehead, John T. & Lab, Steven P. *Juvenile Justice: An Introduction*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Anderson Publishing. ISBN 978-1-4557-7892-8

Books should be available in the University bookstore.

##### **Course Description:**

The course will consider the subject of juvenile delinquency from various perspectives including psychological, physiological and sociological. Particular attention will be paid to the role of family, the school, and the peer group in promoting delinquency. This course will provide students with the tools to analyze and evaluate juvenile justice policies and programs.

Recommended background courses: CJ 101 or SOC 1301

##### **Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define juvenile delinquency from a legal and sociological perspective and create and document a history of delinquency in America.
2. Generalize juvenile crime trends and measure rates of delinquency.
3. Differentiate between the various theories of delinquency and discuss how culture,

- diversity, social stratification, families, schools, neighborhoods and peers may play a role in delinquent behavior.
4. Discuss classical and contemporary research on the etiology of juvenile delinquency, with reference to original sources.
  5. Assess the extent of juvenile law breaking behavior in contemporary society and trace its development (and the popular perception of its development)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

**CLASS FORMAT:** Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience for students by blending lectures, discussions, and appropriate reading assignments. We will be discussing many current, interesting, and often controversial subjects. Thus, a mature attitude is assumed of all students. **Do NOTHING that will interfere with anyone else's opportunity to learn in this class. Disruptive Behavior of any kind will not be tolerated.**

**EXPECTATION:** This is an upper level course and I expect upper-level work from you. If you feel you are not yet ready to tackle this level of coursework, then I advise you to enroll for this class at a later date. There will be writing assignments due throughout the semester. I expect clear writing with adequate style, correct grammar, and (when applicable) proper use of scholarly references. **All** submitted written assignments must be typed in 12 point, Times New Roman font, double spaced, on standard paper with one inch margins. All assignments are to be submitted via drop-box in the e-college system.

**EXAMINATIONS:** Student Learning outcomes #1-#5. There will be four major examinations worth 100 points each. The exams will include multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions. The exams are scheduled in the course outline. Adjust your schedule now--do not make plans that conflict with exam dates! If you miss one of the exams for an excused reason, you will take the make-up exam immediately following the final exam on the same date. **Exam and quiz grades will be posted on e-college.**

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:** *Student Learning outcomes #1-#5.* You are required to complete **1** homework assignment for this course which is an annotated bibliography. You will prepare as if you were beginning research for an academic paper analyzing a **major** problem facing today's juvenile justice system. Some examples might be disproportionate minority confinement, recidivism, gang issues and in particular the growing influence of female gangs, drug use, juvenile curfews, zero tolerance policy for /with school searches, socio economic factors affecting delinquency and parental liability for juvenile offenses, life without parole for juvenile offenders.

To begin this process, research must be conducted to develop resources to be used in developing the paper. Identifying a minimum of 10 scholarly and professional resources, you will develop an annotated bibliography. A minimum of 2.5 pages is required, and all pages must

be numbered. An APA formatted title page is also required. Papers must be submitted via drop box to receive credit and no late papers will be accepted. The time/date stamp for eCollege is the only accepted form of verification of receipt. I will submit an example of an annotated bibliography in doc sharing during the first week of classes. You will not be permitted to use any of the examples that I give as examples. The 10 resources must include a combination of refereed journal articles (3), web sources (2) newspapers/periodicals (2) and the remaining three (3) of your choice not to include newspapers or web blogs. **Wikipedia is not to be used** for this assignment in any form. The paper is worth 100 points and is due at via e-college drop box by **11:00 PM CST on April 5, 2013**. APA formatting is expected. You will be given prohibited websites.

#### ***Late Work***

In principle, I do not accept late work and do not believe in allowing students to turn in work after the due date. My position is that everyone knows the rules of engagement at the beginning of the term and that it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they plan accordingly to submit their assignments in a timely manner. However, I also do understand that sometimes there are circumstances outside one's control that may impact timely submission of assignments. To that end, I have developed a policy on late work. Please note that this policy **applies ONLY to your annotated bibliography** assignments and not to quizzes and exams. Late papers will be accepted after the due date and time up to 1 day (24 hours) late. Twenty (20) points will be deducted from all late assignments. Late is anytime after **11PM CST** on the date the assignment is due. Assignments submitted more than one day late and emailed assignments **will not** be accepted/graded.

#### ***Academic Honesty***

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) receiving a failing grade on the assignment, the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. In **ALL** instances, incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head. Please be aware that academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

*Cheating* is defined as:

- Copying another's test or assignment
- Communication with another during an exam or assignment (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
- Giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
- Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key

*Plagiarism* is defined as:

- Using someone else's work in your assignment without appropriate acknowledgement
- Making slight variations in the language and then failing to give credit to the source

*Collusion* is defined as:

- Collaborating with another, without authorization, when preparing an assignment  
If you have any questions regarding academic dishonesty, ask. Otherwise, I will assume that you have full knowledge of the academic dishonesty policy and agree to the conditions as set forth in this syllabus.

Students should also reference the following link for more detailed information.

<http://web.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/artsSciences/departments/sociologyCriminalJustice/frequentlyAskedQuestions/academicHonesty/default.aspx>

### **APA Citation Format Policy**

It is very important that you learn how to cite properly. In some ways, citations are more important than the actual text of your paper. Therefore, you should take this task seriously and devote some time to understanding how to cite properly. If you take the time to understand this process up front, it will save you a significant amount of time in the long run (not to mention significant deductions in points).

In the social and behavioral sciences (including Criminal Justice), we use APA (American Psychological Association) format. As a rule of thumb, one cites whenever they are paraphrasing other people's words or when they quote other's words directly. You may choose to access the following websites:

[www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>

[www.library.cornell.edu/research/citmanage/apa](http://www.library.cornell.edu/research/citmanage/apa)

**ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:** *Student Learning Outcomes #1-#5.* It is essential to attend all classes to do well in this course. Lectures and discussions are designed to supplement the book, not repeat it. Many items will be discussed in class that is not in the book. While students can copy someone's lecture notes, and complete reading assignments, there is no way to gain the information lost by missing class discussions. Study guides are not provided for any exams. Your study guides are your notes from your reading and class discussions.

Attendance will be taken each class period and you can receive up to 2 points per for each day you attend and participate or up to 100 points. If you miss more than one week's worth of classes (3 class sessions or more) you may want to consider dropping the course. There will be an automatic dropping of one letter grade for absences in excess of six (6) without an official documented excuse.

**TARDINESS:** Being on time is almost as important as being present. Class will begin **promptly** at the scheduled time. If you are not present when attendance is taken you will be counted

absent. Tardiness is extremely rude and disruptive, and reflects a "don't care attitude" on your part. If for some reason beyond your control you must be late, enter the room as quickly and quietly as possible to minimize disruption. Repeated tardiness absolutely will not be tolerated.  
**If you cannot make it to class on time or have just taken employment/internship during the scheduled class time, please drop the course.**

**GRADES:** Final grades will be based on the four exams (100 points ea. =400 pts.); annotated bibliography (100 pts.); and attendance/participation (100pts.). The following grading scale will be used to calculate final grades:

Assignment Type	# of Assignments	Point Value	Total Points
Examinations	4	100	400
Annotated Bibliography	1	100	100
Attendance/participation	40	2-3	100
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>600</b>

Grades earned on each assignment will be added together and will be divided by the total number of points possible in the course. Below is the overall point scale for the course.

**Total points possible for the semester = 600**

A = 90% - 100% (600-540 pts)
B = 80% - 89% (539-480 pts)
C = 70% - 79% (479 -420 pts)
D = 60% - 69% (419 -360 pts)
F = Below 60% (<359 pts)

You will find your course grades in the grade book located in eCollege. This gradebook will keep a 'real-time' accounting of the points you earn on assignments for this class. In this way, you may track your progress in this course throughout the course of the semester.

**Grades will be posted on e-college**

**EXTRA CREDIT: Do not ask, there will not be any.** Two types of students usually want to do extra credit work: those who would like to make an even "higher" A; and those who are failing the course. In either case, extra credit makes no sense. Put in the time, energy, and effort on the "regular" work and you will not need any "extra" credit.

(See syllabus tool for content suggestions)

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This course is taught as a face-to-face class but is web-enhanced. Students need access to a computer (there are computer labs all over campus) in order to check e-mails and to check grades and take examinations on e-college.

- Students need to have ready access to a broadband connection to the internet such as Cable, DSL, or the TAMU-C campus network. (Dial-up, satellite, or other non-broadband internet connections will not function sufficiently with eCollege.)
- A computer with a 2.0Ghz or better processor and 1 GB of RAM. MAC computers with similar configurations will also work.
- Windows XP, Vista, or 7 operating system. MAC with the OS 9 or X operating system.
- Microsoft Office or similar package with a word processor, Power Point type presentation application, and a spreadsheet application. (OpenOffice is a free, open source application that is very similar to the Microsoft Office applications and is available for download at [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org) )

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement:**

The most effective way to communicate with the professor will be to come to class. The professor will be in her office during posted office hours and by appointment. The best way to make an appointment is to communicate directly with the professor immediately prior to or after class. Appointments can also be made via e-mail.

The professor will periodically communicate with the entire class or selected individual students by using the student's MyLeo e-mail address. Students should check their MyLeo account regularly for e-mails from the university and/or the professor.

If you encounter any technological difficulties with e-college contact the e-college help desk immediately.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures:

**Assigned readings should be completed BEFORE coming to class. Students will be called upon in class to discuss/explain material from the reading assignments. This is not intended to be punishment or to single anyone out in front of the rest of the class, but could prove to be embarrassing if you are unprepared.**

***Note: Class time needs to be focused on the academics. Please do not bring food into the classroom. Eat your snacks and meals before or after class. You may not leave your cell phones on when you enter the classroom absent an emergency which you should inform me about in advance. Any student caught texting while class is in session will have two (2) points deducted from the final grade for each documented infraction.***

### University Specific Procedures:

#### **Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library**

**Room 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

**StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

**POLICIES ON ENROLLMENT, "X's", AND WITHDRAWAL:** All policies regarding last day for enrollment, withdrawal from class, and the use of "X" will be rigidly adhered to in this course. Students should check the student handbook, current semester schedule, and the appropriate bulletin boards, which indicate the specific deadlines for withdrawing from courses without penalty. Seeing that all university procedures are followed is the students' responsibility.

**Schedule:**

This schedule is tentative and I reserve the right to modify it, with notice, as needed during the semester. Please be advised that we will cover approximately one chapter every week in the order they appear in your text. All alterations to the schedule will be announced in class, posted as an announcement in e-college, e-mailed to your MyLeo account and it is your responsibility to be aware of these changes and to check your campus e-mail on a regular basis.

Important dates are listed below:

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

Week-Dates	Topic	Assignment
(1)1/14	Course Introductions, Syllabus review The Definition and Extent of Delinquency	Chapter 1
(2)1/21	<b>Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday</b>	
(2)1/23	History of Juvenile Justice	Chapter 2
(3)1/28	Explaining Delinquency-Biological and Psychological	Chapter 3
(4)2/4	Sociological Explanations of Delinquency	Chapter 4
(4)2/8	<b>Exam #1 (Friday)</b>	
(5)2/11	Gang Delinquency	Chapter 5
(6)2/18	Drugs and Delinquency	Chapter 6
(7)2/25	Policing and Juveniles	Chapter 7
(8)3/4	All chapter review/Catch up	
(8) 3/6	<b>Midterm Exam- Cumulative (Wednesday)</b>	
(9)3/11-3/17	<b>SPRING BREAK WEEK!!!!</b>	
(10)3/18	The Juvenile Court Process	Chapter 8
(11)3/25	Due Process and Juveniles	Chapter 9
(12)4/1	Institutional/Residential Interventions	Chapter 10
(12)4/5	<b>Annotated Bibliography DUE via e-College dropbox week #12 by 11:00 PM CST (Friday)</b>	
(13)4/8	Juvenile Probation	Chapter 11
(13)4/12	<b>Exam #3 Friday</b>	

(15)4/15	Restorative Justice Victimization of Juveniles	Chapter 12/13
(16)4/22	Future Directions in Juvenile Justice	Chapter 14
4/29	Review/Catch up	
5/3	Last Class Day	
5/4-5/10	Final Exam week per university schedule**** <b>Exam #4</b>	

**\*\*\*Final Exam:**

**Cumulative**

*Make-up exams immediately following final exam via e-college*

**Note: Instructor intends to follow syllabus but reserves the right to make revisions as deemed necessary and appropriate and will notify students in writing.**