



**CJ 326.001
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
Fall 2013
T,R 2:00 – 3:15 p.m., AGIT 238
(Web-enhanced)**

Assignment #1: You are required to read this syllabus, print out a copy, print and sign it, and turn it in to the professor prior to the end of the 4th class meeting (Sept. 5, 2013). You will receive 20 pts. for doing so. Failure to do so will earn 0 pts. There is no partial credit.

Professor: William E. Thompson, Ph.D.

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science 229

Office Hours: M,T,W,R 11:00 a.m.-noon; 1:30-2:00 p.m.; 3:30-4:15 p.m., other times by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5136

Office Fax: 903-886-5330

University Email Address: William.Thompson@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook Required: *Juvenile Delinquency: A Sociological Approach* (9th Ed.) by William E. Thompson and Jack E. Bynum. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2010, ISBN: 0-205-24653-2. Books should be available in the University bookstore.

Course Description: The study of the nature extent, causation, treatment, and prevention of juvenile delinquency. Recommended background courses: CJ 101 or SOC 1301.

Student Learning Outcomes: After completing this course students should be able to:

1. Apply a sociological and criminal justice perspective on juvenile delinquency to the causation, nature and extent of delinquency, the juvenile court, and possible control, treatment, and prevention strategies;
2. Make general sociological analyses of specific types of delinquency and juvenile offenders;
3. Provide a brief overview of the Texas Juvenile Code and the Juvenile Justice System in Texas; and compare/contrast it with other states;
4. Apply critical thinking skills to the problem of delinquency and express their ideas in written and oral communication.
5. Use critical thinking skills to assess current trends in juvenile delinquency and develop a plan with policy implications for “rethinking” the problem of delinquency.

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.**

POWER POINTS ONLINE: The Power Points used in class will be posted online through e-college. Although they do not contain all of the material covered or discussed in class, they do provide a general outline of topics, concepts, theories, etc., covered in class, so it may be helpful to review them before exams. If you miss class for any reason, it would be a good idea to view the Power Point for that class and look up the information related to them in your textbook.

EXAMINATIONS: There will be five major examinations worth 100 pts. each. The exams will include multiple choice 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.

Note: You will need to bring a brown scantron answer sheet, a #2 lead pencil, and a blue book for all the exams.

Exam grades will be posted on e-college.

ONLINE DISCUSSIONS: There will be 5 online discussions during this semester. They will be worth 10 pts. each for a total of 50 points. Discussions will open when we begin a new unit of study and they will close at midnight on the class day prior to the examination that covers that unit material. For example, our first discussion will open on the first day of class and close at midnight on Tuesday September 10. Subsequent online discussions will follow the same format.

Because we will be dealing with controversial contemporary social issues, an open mind and a mature attitude are important requirements for this course. Students are expected to be polite and courteous and conform to online etiquette at all times. For detailed rules on "netiquette" go to the website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>
A summary of netiquette rules are provided below.

- Rule 1: Remember the Human
- Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life
- Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace
- Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth
- Rule 5: Make yourself look good online
- Rule 6: Share expert knowledge
- Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control
- Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy
- Rule 9: Don't abuse your power
- Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes

Grading Rubric for Online Discussions:

Student responded to initial issue with at least a paragraph that addresses each of the questions or issues raised in the discussion topic

(0-6 pts)

Student responded to other students' posts

(0-1 pt)

Student asks questions and engages other students in discussion

(0-2 pts)

Student's posts are error free, grammatically correct, and stay on topic

(0-1 pt)

As you can see, 1 post to the discussion topic is the minimum expectation and will get the minimum points (6). To get the full 10 pts, you cannot wait until near the end of the discussion and make a post or two. You need to post early and post often. This is a discussion, which means you need to interact with your classmates, asking and answering questions.

CRITICAL THINKING PAPER: Students will write a 2 page (typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font) critical thinking paper entitled "Rethinking Juvenile Delinquency" based on the comprehensive course content and focused on Chapter 16 of the textbook. The paper will address one of the proposed components of the "Thompson/Bynum Plan" for Rethinking Delinquency and will indicate strengths and weaknesses of the proposed reform based on literature, research, and data on juvenile delinquency (this is NOT an opinion paper). Where proposals are found to be weak or lacking, the student will offer a "counter proposal" that is better. The paper is worth 50 pts. and is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday November 26. Ten points will be deducted if the paper is turned in after the beginning of class on the assigned day and no papers will be accepted more than 1 calendar (not class) day late.

Place the paper in the drop box prior to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 26.

If you do not place the paper in the dropbox by the deadline, you must turn it in at the beginning of class on Tuesday November 26 (5 points will be deducted)

Papers turned in after Tuesday November 26 will be worth only 1/2 credit. No papers will be accepted after Tuesday December 3.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION: 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 are 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. Attendance will be taken each class period and you will receive 1 pt. for each day you attend. There are 30 class periods, so perfect attendance earns 30 pts. If you miss more than a week's worth of classes (3 class sessions or more) you may want to consider dropping the course.

You can also earn up to 40 points with your participation in online discussions.

TARDINESS: Being on time is almost as important as being present. Class will begin **promptly** at the scheduled time. The classroom door locks automatically and nobody will be admitted after class begins. Tardiness is not an option. It is extremely rude and disruptive, and reflects a "don't care attitude" on your part. **If you cannot make it to class on time, please drop the course.**

GRADES: Final grades will be based on the five exams (100 points ea.=500 pts.); signed syllabus (20 pts.); critical thinking paper (50 pts.); online discussions (50 pts.) and attendance/participation (30 pts.). The following grading scale will be used to calculate final grades:

A = 90% - 100% (585-650 pts)

B = 80% - 89% (520-584 pts)

C = 70% - 79% (455-519 pts)

D = 60% - 69% (390-454 pts)

F = Below 60% (<390 pts)

Grades will be posted on e-college

NOTE: We will NOT be negotiating for grades at the end of the semester. You have plenty of opportunities to earn points throughout the semester. A few “bonus” points are built into each exam. At the end of the semester, e-college will calculate your total points and they will be applied to the scale on this syllabus. That is the grade you have earned, and that is the grade you will be assigned. (By the way, e-college reports percentages. There is a big difference between a percentage point and a point. For example, if you earn 69% of the 650 total points, you are not 1 point away from a C—you are actually 1 percentage point from a C which is 6.5 points). **EARN your points during the semester, don't try to BEG for them at the end of it.**

EXTRA CREDIT: Don't ask, there won't 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 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)

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 his 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.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through MyLeo e-mail. I will send out reminders about assignments, changes in syllabus, etc., to the entire class through e-mail using your official "My Leo" university e-mail address. Consequently, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check your e-mail regularly for messages from me. If you contact me via e-mail, please tell me your name and the course in which you are enrolled as part of your e-mail.

If you send me an e-mail, I will always read it and respond within a reasonable amount of time. Generally, if you send me an e-mail any time between Monday 8:00 a.m. and noon Friday, I will respond within 24 hours or sooner if possible. If, however, you e-mail me after noon on Friday, it will be Monday at the earliest before I respond. Fortunately, I am not a brain surgeon or cardiologist and none of the issues or assignments in this class are life or death matters. If you have a class-related problem or issue, DO NOT PANIC. Any problem that is class-related that occurs over the weekend can wait until the following Monday to be addressed.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

THIS CLASSROOM IS A "SAFE SPACE"

All persons who enter this classroom will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of age, race, sex, social class, religion, politics, sexual orientation, and/or lifestyle. There will be "Zero Tolerance" in this classroom for any form of ageism, racism, sexism, sexual harassment, or any other form of prejudice, discrimination, or bigotry.

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 anybody 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 topic at hand. Please do not bring food or drink into the classroom. Eat your snacks and meals before or after class. Also, while you may leave your cell phones on, please silence them when you enter the classroom. Thanks.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

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 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

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.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

DATE:	TOPIC:	READING ASSIGNMENTS:
Week 1 T, 27 Aug.	Introduction, Course Syllabus, etc. Online Discussion #1 opens at 12:01 a.m.	
R, 29 Aug	A Sociological Approach to Delinquency	Ch. 1
Week 2 T, 3 Sept R, 5 Sept.	A Sociological Approach to Delinquency Dimensions of the Delinquency Problem	Ch. 1 Ch. 2
Week 3 T, 10 Sept.	Dimensions of the Problem Online Discussion #1 ends at 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 2
R, 12 Sept.	EXAM 1	Ch 1,2
Week 4 T, 17 Sept.	Biological/Psychogenic Explanations of J.D. Online Discussion #2 opens at 12:01 a.m.	Ch. 3
R, 19 Sept.	Strain Theories	Ch. 4
Week 5 T, 24 Sept. R, 26 Sept.	Cultural Transmission Theories Social Learning Theories	Ch. 4 Ch. 5
Week 6 T, 1 Oct. R, 3 Oct.	Labeling Theories Radical/Conflict Theories	Ch. 6 Ch. 6

Week 7 T, 8 Oct. R, 10 Oct.	Maturation/Life Course Theories Rational Choice/Deterrence Theories	Ch. 7 Ch. 7
Week 8 T, 15 Oct. R, 17 Oct.	Feminist Theories Online Discussion #2 Ends at 11:59 p.m. EXAM 2	Ch. 7 Ch. 3-7
Week 9 T, 22 Oct. R, 24 Oct.	Family and J.D. Online Discussion #3 Begins at 12:01 a.m. Family and J.D.	Ch. 8 Ch. 8
Week 10 T, 29 Oct. R, 31 Oct.	Schools & JD Youth Subculture	Ch. 9 Ch. 10
Week 11 T, 5 Nov. R, 7 Nov.	Gangs Online Discussion #3 Ends at 11:59 p.m. EXAM 3	Ch. 11 Ch.8-11
Week 12 T, 12 Nov. R, 14 Nov.	Policing Juveniles Online Discussion #4 Begins at 12:01 a.m. Policing Juveniles	Ch. 12 Ch. 12
Week 13 T, 19 Nov. R, 21 Nov.	Juvenile Courts Juvenile Corrections Discussion #4 Ends at 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 13 Ch. 14
Week 14 T, 26 Nov. T, 26 Nov. W, 27 Nov. R, 28 Nov.	EXAM 4 Critical Thinking Paper Due Discussion #5 Begins at 12:01 a.m. Thanksgiving Holiday	Ch. 12-14
Week 15 T, 3 Dec. R, 5 Dec.	Treatment and Prevention Strategies Rethinking Delinquency Discussion #5 Ends at 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 15 Ch. 16

T, 10 Dec. 1:15 p.m.	Exam 5 (Final): Make-up exams immediately following final exam	Ch. 15,16
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I have read this entire syllabus and understand all of the expectations and requirements for this course. I also understand the grading scale and how my final grade will be calculated and determined for this course. I will not ask the professor to deviate from general course requirements or standards to meet my individual schedule or needs. I understand that there is a big difference between 1 percentage point and 1 point in calculating grades. **I will not ask for extra credit or beg for points or for a higher grade than I earned based on the grading scale.**

Printed Name _____

CWID # _____

Signed _____

Date _____