



**CJ 326.02W  
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY  
Summer 1 2015  
Online**

**Professor:** William E. Thompson, Ph.D.

**Office Location:** Ferguson Social Science 229

**Office Hours:** can be reached by e-mail and can meet in office by appointment

**Office Phone:** 903-886-5136

**Office Fax:** 903-886-5330

**University Email Address:** [william.thompson@tamuc.edu](mailto: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, 2013, ISBN: 0-205-24653-2. Books should be available in the University bookstore and online. It is important to have the most current edition (9<sup>th</sup>) as earlier editions do not contain the same information and chapter numbers, boxes, etc., will not match.

**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: This course in Juvenile Delinquency has the following objectives:**

1. Develop a sociological and criminal justice perspective on juvenile delinquency in our society with emphasis on causation, nature and extent of delinquency, the juvenile court, and possible control, treatment, and prevention strategies;
2. Make general sociological analyses of types of delinquency and juvenile offenders;
3. Understand a brief overview of the Texas Juvenile Code and the Juvenile Justice System in Texas; and compare/contrast it with other states;
4. 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:** This is an online summer course that takes a full semester of coursework (15-16 weeks) and condenses it down to five 4-day weeks (essentially 20 class days). Consequently, things happen very quickly and the course moves at a very fast pace. It is

imperative to keep up with reading assignments and discussions, as once a student gets “behind,” it becomes almost impossible to get “caught up.” Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience for students by blending PowerPoint presentations, online discussions, and appropriate reading assignments. We will be studying and 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 and be sure to practice good “netiquette” (see below).**

. 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](#)

**EXAMINATIONS:** There will be four multiple choice examinations worth 100 pts. each. 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 exam the only way to make it up is to come to campus on a date and time determined by the professor. If you miss more than one exam, you will fail the course. All exams will be taken on the computer within a 1-hour time frame. There will be a 12-hour “window” in which each exam can be taken; once logged on, you will have only 1 hour to complete the exam; you will not be able to log off and back on during the exam; **once logged off, the exam is over. Exams are intended to be taken “closed book” and without any outside help.**

**CRITICAL THINKING PAPER:** Students will write a 1 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 any 1 of the 12 proposed components of the “Thompson/Bynum Plan” for Rethinking Delinquency (Chapter 16) and will indicate strengths and weaknesses of this proposed reform based on literature, research, and data on juvenile delinquency (this is NOT merely an opinion paper). Where the proposal is found to be weak or lacking, the student will offer a “counter proposal” that is better. Cite all sources & list all references. Do NOT exceed the 1 page limit. Be concise, do not repeat or cite needless material. Stay focused on responding to one of the proposals in Chapter 16.

The paper is worth a maximum of 20 pts. and is **due by 5:00 p.m. Central time on Thursday July 9**. No paper will be accepted after that time/date. The paper must be submitted in the appropriate “drop box” through e-college. **Do not e-mail the paper as an attachment. E-mailed papers will not be accepted.**

**ON-LINE DISCUSSIONS:** On Monday of each week a discussion question will be posted that relates to the reading assignments for that week. Students have until midnight (central time) Wednesday of each week to respond to the discussion question. Students are minimally expected to type at least one response to the question to receive 6 points. To receive 7, 8, 9, or 10 points, students are expected to “engage” in the discussion by asking other students questions and/or responding to the posts of other students and/or the professor.

To earn these points students must post some type of response to the question as well as a comment/question that is on topic and contributes to the overall discussion (see rubric below). Online discussions are not the same as texting or tweets. They should reflect critical thinking and contain complete sentences that are grammatically correct with as few spelling and punctuation mistakes as possible. Do not use slang or popular abbreviations such as btw, lol, etc. Discussions will be worth a total of 50 pts. Always be polite and courteous when responding to someone else’s comments or questions.

**NOTE:** Online discussions should not be viewed as similar to a discussion around the dinner table with friends or family where everybody expresses their views, opinions, and beliefs on some topic often which they know absolutely nothing about. This is an academic course and your discussion topics are directly linked to the Power Points and reading assignments in your textbook. Consequently, your posts should reflect a certain amount of knowledge on the topic based on research, facts, and data. It is fine to critique, interpret, and *occasionally* interject an opinion or two, but for the most part, this should be an academic and intellectual discussion of the topic at hand.

**Grading Rubric for Online Discussions:**

Did student respond to question posed? (6 pts)

Does the response reflect critical thinking, facts, and data as opposed to just personal opinion? (2 pts)

Does the student’s response add to and/or stimulate other discussion? (1pt)

Is the response grammatically correct and free of abbreviations and spelling errors? (1 pt)

**PARTICIPATION:** It is essential to read all assignments and participate in all online discussions to do well in this course.

**GRADES:** Final grades will be based on the four exams (100 points ea.= 400 pts.); critical thinking paper (20 pts.); and online discussion/participation (50 pts.). The following grading scale will be used to calculate final grades:

A = 90% - 100% (423 - 470 pts)

B = 80% - 89% (376 - 422 pts)

C = 70% - 79% (329 - 375 pts)

D = 60% - 69% (282 - 328 pts)

F = Below 60% (<282 pts)

**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.

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS</b>
--------------------------------

- 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) )

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

N/A

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

**CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR:** The professor will be in the office between 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays if students would like to have a face-to-face visit, and may be available at other times by appointment. The best way to contact the professor will be through campus e-mail. Every effort will be made to reply to inquiries made Monday thru Wednesday within a 24-hour period. E-mails received on Thursday, Friday, or over the weekend may not receive a response until the following Monday. *The professor will **NOT** be available on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays.*

**Technical Support: This is the statement from the initial page in eCollege**

**eCollege Technical Concerns:** Please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by sending an email directly to [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org). You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511 or 720-931-3847 (direct), or through the Online Chat by clicking on the "Live Support" tab within your eCollege course.

**Course Concerns:** If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about an exam, about course due dates, etc.), please contact your instructor via email, through the "Virtual Office," or during office hours.

**Other Questions/Concerns:** Contact the appropriate TAMU-C department relating to your questions/concern. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5511 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

**Course Specific Procedures:**

**CHEATING & PLAGIARISM:** It should go without saying that every student is expected to do his/her own work. Departmental policy provides that anyone caught cheating in any form or fashion will receive an "F" for the course and may be subjected to further disciplinary action by the university. Plagiarism (the use of other's words, phrases, and ideas in your writing without giving credit to the original author) is a form of cheating and not only violates academic ethical standards, but is against the law. Don't do it!

## 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**

**Gege Library 132**

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

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.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.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
----------------------------------

<b>DAY:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TOPIC:</b>	<b>READING ASSIGNMENTS:</b>
1	M, 8 June	A Sociological Approach to Juvenile Delinquency	Ch. 1
2	T, 9 June	Dimensions of Juvenile Delinquency	Ch. 2
3	W, 10 June	Dimensions of Juvenile Delinquency <b>Deadline for week 1 online discussion</b>	Ch. 2
4	<b>R, 11 June</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>Ch 1-2</b>
5	M, 15 June	Biological/Psychogenic Explanations of J.D.	Ch. 3
6	T, 16 June	Strain/Cultural Transmission Theories	Ch. 4

7	W, 17 June	Social Learning/Social Control Theories <b>Deadline for week 2 online discussion</b>	Ch. 5
8	R, 18 June	Labeling/Radical Theories	Ch. 6
9	M, 22 June	Integrative Theories	Ch. 7
<b>10</b>	<b>T, 23 June</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>Ch 3-7</b>
11	W, 24 June	Family and J.D. <b>Deadline for week 3 online discussion</b>	Ch. 8
12	R, 25 June	Schools & JD	Ch. 9
13	M, 29 June	Youth Subculture	Ch. 10
14	T, 30 June	Gangs	Ch. 11
<b>15</b>	<b>W, 1 July</b>	<b>EXAM 3</b> <b>Deadline for week 4 online discussion</b>	<b>Ch 8-11</b>
16	R, 2 July	Policing Juveniles	Ch 12
17	M, 6 July	Juvenile Courts	Ch. 13
18	T, 7 July	Juvenile Corrections/ Treatment and Prevention Strategies	Ch. 14, 15
19	W, 8 July	Rethinking Delinquency <b>Rethinking Delinquency (Critical Thinking Paper Due)</b>	Ch. 16 <b>Ch. 16</b>
	<b>R, 9 July</b>	<b>EXAM 4</b> <b>Deadline for week 5 online discussion</b>	<b>Ch13-16</b>