

CRJU C250

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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Stallings 124
Spring 2004, 16 weeks
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Course Description: This course provides an overview of the extent, causes, nature and control of juvenile delinquency in the United States. Emphasis is given to the special nature of childhood and adolescence, the violent offender, treatment of juvenile offenders, and female juvenile crime. The juvenile justice system is examined from both a historical and a contemporary perspective. The juvenile court, in particular, is studied as an institution that may have outlived its usefulness. The conflict between juvenile law and procedure and the protection of children is also discussed as another problematic area in juvenile justice. The role of juvenile correctional institutions as well as other forms of treatment and punishment will also be explored.

Course Objectives:

- (1) To introduce students to the field of juvenile delinquency within the context of American criminology
- (2) To familiarize students with the standard techniques of the measurement of Juvenile delinquency
- (3) To familiarize students with the etiological theories of juvenile delinquency
- (4) To familiarize students with the juvenile justice system in American society
- (5) To stimulate students to understand the multicultural nature of American society and the impact that these changes have on juvenile delinquency prevention and control

Course Text: (1) Larry Siegel, Brandon Welsh, and Joseph Senna. **Juvenile Delinquency: Theory, Practice and Law**, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning, 2003 (8th edition),

Course Requirements:

(1) Attend all classes (Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, no class on Feb. 25 (Mardi Gras), Mar. 3 (midterm) 10, 17, 24, 31, no class on Apr 7 (Easter), Apr 14, 21, 28 (**last day of class and final examination**)*, (2) **Midterm examination (22.5% of grade) (March 3); Final examination (22.5% of grade) (April 28)**, (3) **Journal article assignment (5% of grade) (January 28)**, (4) **Major term project (40% of grade) (due April 28)** and (5) **Juvenile crime log (10% of grade) (due April 28)****

*One letter for each class missed will reduce your grade

**No late assignments will be accepted and no emailed papers will be accepted

Course Outline:

Topics correspond to the Table of Contents in Siegel and Senna's **Juvenile Delinquency**. Each number refers to a specific chapter in text. Please read the assigned chapter before attending class.

Week 1, Jan. 14:

The Concept of Delinquency

1. Childhood and Delinquency chp. 1
2. The Nature and Extent of Delinquency chp. 2

Weeks 2,3,4, Jan. 21, 21, Feb. 4 (description and outline for paper due)

Theories of Delinquency

3. Individual Views of Delinquency chp. 3
4. Sociological Views of Delinquency chp. 4
5. Developmental Views of Delinquency chp. 5

Weeks 5,6,7,8, Feb. 11, 18, Mch. 3 (midterm), 10

Environmental Influences on Delinquency

6. Gender and Delinquency chp. 6
8. The Family and Delinquency: Makeup, Influence, and Abuse chp. 7
8. Peers and Delinquency: Juvenile Gangs and Groups chp. 8
9. Schools and Delinquency chp. 9
10. Drug Use and Delinquency chp. 10

Weeks 9, Mch. 17

Advocacy Juvenile Justice

11. The History and Development of Juvenile Justice chp. 11

Weeks 10,11, Mch. 24, 31

Controlling Juvenile Offenders

12. Police Work with Juveniles chp. 12
13. Pretrial Procedures chp. 13
14. The Juvenile Trial and Disposition chp. 14

Weeks 12,13,14, April 14, 21, 28 (final exam)

Juvenile Corrections

15. Juvenile Probation and Community Treatment chp. 15
16. Institutions for Juveniles chp. 16

Special Topics

- The Mass Media and Delinquency
- The Violent Juvenile Offender
- School Shootings and Juvenile Profiling

Description of Assignments for the Class

1. Guidelines for Article Analysis:

You are to select an *empirical* delinquency article from a journal in the Loyola library or online (sample list below.) An empirical article is one where the researcher formulates a research problem (e.g., Why does most violent juvenile delinquency occur between the hours of 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.?) or tests a theory (e.g., Female juveniles commit more property crimes than violent crimes because they are socialized to be non-violent) by collecting data (e.g., number and types of delinquent acts or crimes committed) and analyzing data (e.g., charts, statistical tests, etc) and drawing conclusions based on his or her analysis. Make a copy of the article and attach it to your analysis, read the article and then trace it through the steps in the scientific method in no more than 3 pages: (1) Theory or Problem, (2) Review of literature, (3) Hypothesis, (4) Collection of Data, (5) Analysis of Data, (6) Conclusion (7) Application to control of delinquency. In other words, you are tracing the delinquency researcher's work through the steps in the scientific method to better digest and understand what was done. **Be sure to include the headings of the scientific method in the paper ----- Theory or Problem, Review of Literature, Hypothesis, Collection of Data, Analysis of Data, Conclusion, Application to Control of Delinquency.**

Problem: What is the problem that you are exploring in the research? Be precise. Is it to examine a juvenile drug rehabilitation program for its effectiveness? Is it to see if juvenile counseling in the school will reduce delinquency? Be precise

or

Theory: You may also want to test a delinquency theory. For example, do kids coming from single parent homes come into contact with the law than kids coming from dual parent homes? We will cover many delinquency theories in the course.

Review the Literature: You must examine and report on other research that has been conducted on your problem or theory.

Hypothesis: What is the hypothesis (es) of the study. In other words, what do you expect to find in your research? This can only be speculation at this point.

Collection of Data: How will you collect the data for your project? Will you use primary or secondary data? What will be your sample or population? Include a detailed description here.

Analyze Data: How will you analyze the data? You might use simple graphs or percentages.

Conclusion: What are the conclusions of your research. What are the

implications of your findings?

Application of Control of Delinquency: Indicate how the research may or may not have practical value in the prevention, control or treatment of juvenile delinquency in the real world.

Examples of journals with empirical research articles:

Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency

Crime and Delinquency

Criminology

British Journal of Criminology

Social Problems

Deviant Behavior

Journal of Criminal Justice

Justice Quarterly

2. Guidelines for Major Delinquency Project:

Term paper

Your major project is to write a 20 page "term" paper (discounting bibliography) in which writing as well as content will be graded. You will be expected to research the topic and logically develop the literature around the topic. You must rely on all possible sources of data for your paper (internet sites; journals; government publications, etc.). **An outline and one page description of the paper is due on February 4.** The outline should include major headings to guide both your research and writing. Select a topic that you have some interest in. Past topics include the following:

- The relationship between child abuse and delinquency
- Juvenile violence in the public schools
- Juvenile hate crimes
- Juvenile female prostitution
- the use of guns by juvenile offenders
- Juvenile capital punishment - has the time come"
- Abolish the juvenile court; has it outlived its purpose
- The relationship between early learning opportunities and Later juvenile delinquency
- The relationship between juvenile delinquency and adult criminal careers
- Juvenile crime in other countries -e.g., Japan, Russia,
- minority juvenile crime: changes over time

You obviously have a multitude of choices here. Examine the text box material for possible ideas. If you are having trouble with a topic I can give you some suggestions.

An outline for a paper might look like this:

The Relationship Between Child Abuse and Delinquency

- 1. Child abuse in America**
 - a. Definition of**
 - b. how prevalent**
 - c. Patterns of**
- 2. Abused Children and law violating behavior**
 - a. Type of abuse and type of delinquency**
 - b. Demographic differences - sex, race, Etc.**
- 3. The relationship between abuse, delinquency and later adult criminality**
 - a. patterns over time**
 - b. types of adult crimes abused engage in**
- 4. Other patterns of abuse and later life adjustment**
 - a. abuser as perpetrator of child abuse, spouse abuse, Etc.**
 - b. abuser and other psychological problems**
- 5. Treatment of the Abuser Delinquent/Criminal**
 - a. Psychological Intervention**
 - b. Behavioral Modification**
 - c. Success of intervention**

Style:

- 1. Develop the topic. Your first few paragraphs should clearly and precisely state what the paper is about, why it is important, etc.**
- 2. Review the literature, research, etc. You should outline the paper before you write it. The paper should logically flow and come to some type of conclusion.**
- 3. Use appropriate heads (underlined or boldfaced) to break the paper up.**
- 4. Reference style should follow APA guidelines.**

3. Juvenile Crime Log:

You are to find two articles a week from newspapers, magazines, Internet, etc. dealing with juvenile crime or delinquency. Include a hard copy of the article and then note the following information on a separate page: (1) the date and source of the article, (2) type of crime or juvenile act (e.g., act of vandalism, status offense, rape, armed robber, drug offense, etc.), (3) offender characteristics (age, sex, race, etc.) And (4) victim characteristics (age, sex, race, property, etc.). You may or may not find all the information in each article. Report what you find.

