



**CJ 326.01W
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
Fall 2016
(Online)**

Professor: William E. Thompson, Ph.D.

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science 229

Office Hours: M,W, 8:15-8:50 a.m.; 2:00-3:00 p.m.; other times by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook Required: *Juvenile Delinquency: A Sociological Approach* (10th Ed.) by William E. Thompson and Jack E. Bynum. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017, ISBN: 978-1-4422-6500-4. Books should be available in the University bookstore and from a variety of online sites.

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. Provide a brief overview of the Texas Juvenile Code and the Juvenile Justice System in Texas; and compare/contrast it with other states;
3. 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 are scheduled in the course outline. Adjust your schedule now--do not make plans that conflict with exam dates!

Exam grades will be posted on e-college after graded.

ONLINE DISCUSSIONS: There will be 5 online discussions worth 20 pts. each for a total of 100 pts. They will begin at the beginning of each unit and end on the day of each exam. Some class time will be set aside for you to participate in online discussions, but you are encouraged to participate in them during other times as well.

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
(0-10 pts)**

**Student responded to other students' posts
(0-5 pts)**

**Student asks questions and engages other students in discussion
(0-3 pts)**

**Student's posts are error free, grammatically correct, and stay on topic
(0-2 pts)**

As you can see, 1 post to the discussion topic is the minimum expectation and will get the minimum points (0-10). To get the full 20 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. Realistically, you will need a minimum of 4 quality posts to receive the maximum 20 pts. Do not ask me to “re-open” a discussion once it has ended. When the discussion is closed, it’s closed.

GRADES: Final grades will be based on the five exams (100 points ea.= 500 pts.) and 5 online discussions (20 pts. ea. = 100 pts.). The following grading scale will be used to calculate final grades:

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

Grades will be posted on e-college

NOTE: We will NOT be negotiating for grades at the end of the semester. 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 600 total points, you are not 1 point away from a C—you are actually 1 percentage point from a C which is 6 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 an online class.

- 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

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. There is no such thing as a “sociological emergency.” 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 online 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 and Power Points reviewed 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@tamuc.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Texas A&M University Policy on Guns

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TOPIC:</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENTS:</u>
Week 1	A Sociological Approach to Delinquency Online Discussion # 1 Begins	Ch. 1
Week 2	Dimensions of the Delinquency Problem	Ch. 2
Week 3	Biological/Psychogenic Explanations of J.D.	Ch. 3

F, 16 Sept. F, 16 Sept.	EXAM 1 Online Discussion #1 Ends	Ch. 1,2,3
Week 4	Strain Theories Online Discussion #2 Begins	Ch. 4
Week 5	Social Learning Theories	Ch. 5
Week 6	Labeling and Radical/Conflict Theories	Ch. 6
Week 7	Maturation/Life Course, Rational Choice/Deterrence and Feminist Theories	Ch. 7
F, 14 Oct. F, 14 Oct.	EXAM 2 Online Discussion #2 Ends	Ch. 4-7
Week 8	Family and J.D. Online Discussion #3 Begins	Ch. 8
Week 9	Schools and J.D.	Ch. 9
Week 10	Youth Subculture	Ch. 10
Week 11 F, 11 Nov. F, 11 Nov.	Gangs EXAM 3 Online Discussion #3 Ends	Ch. 11 Ch. 8-11
Week 12	Policing Juveniles Online Discussion #4 Begins	Ch. 12
Week 13	Juvenile Courts	Ch. 13
Week 14 F, 2 Dec. F, 2 Dec.	Juvenile Corrections EXAM 4 Online Discussion #4 Ends	Ch. 14 Ch. 12-14
Week 15	Treatment and Prevention Strategies Online Discussion #5 Begins	Ch. 15
Week 16 W, 14 Dec. W, 14 Dec.	Rethinking Delinquency EXAM 5 Online Discussion #5 Ends	Ch. 16 Ch. 15,16