

Spring 2008
Criminal Justice/Sociology 4331
Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
ST 106

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Instructor: Dr. Dorothy S. McClellan
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Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday 12:15 - 2:45 p.m.
And by appointment

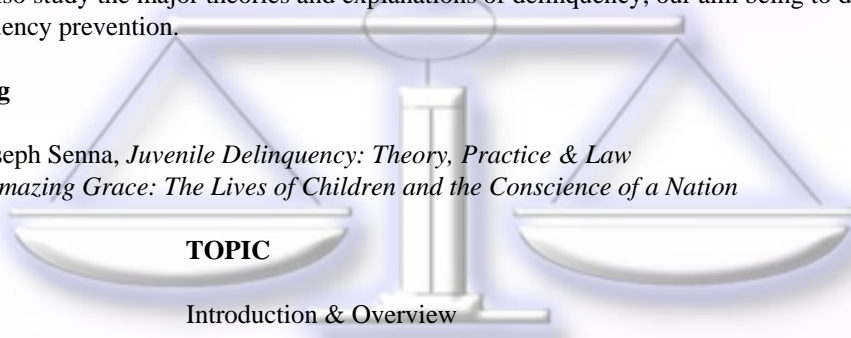
Please visit my website:
<http://cj.tamucc.edu>

Course Description

This course will examine the extent and nature of juvenile crime in the United States and American society's response to it. We will begin by examining the nature of adolescence and the history of childhood and juvenile justice. We will also study the major theories and explanations of delinquency, our aim being to develop a national agenda for delinquency prevention.

Required Reading

Larry Siegel & Joseph Senna, *Juvenile Delinquency: Theory, Practice & Law*
Jonathan Kozol, *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation*



DATE	TOPIC
January 17	Introduction & Overview
January 22 & 24 & 29	The Nature of Adolescence & Delinquency Film: <i>House of Tomorrow</i> Readings: S&S, Chapter 1 Kozol, Chapters 1 & 2
January 31 & February 5 February 7	Juvenile Justice: Then & Now Readings: S&S, Chapter 12 Kozol, Chapter 3 Films: <i>The Creation of Childhood</i>
February 12 & 14	The Nature and Extent of Juvenile Delinquency Readings: S&S, Chapter 2 Kozol, Chapter 4 Visit by Brenda Peterson, Child Protective Services, to discuss Kozol book.
February 19	Sarah Stukenberg, Family Law Attorney
February 21	Examination

DATE

TOPIC

Theories of Delinquency

February 26

What is a Theory?
Social Structure & Delinquency
Readings: S&S, Chapter 4

February 28 - March 4

Social Structure & Delinquency continued
Readings: S&S, Chapter 4 (pp. 107-121)

March 6

Film: *Thug Life in D.C.*

March 11 & 13

Social Process Theories: Learning
Readings: S&S, Chapter 4 (pp. 121-129)

March 20

Film: *Children of Violence*

March 25

Juveniles & Sexuality, Guest Speaker
Cinda Libus, Planned Parenthood Educator

March 27

Social Process Theories: Control

April 1

Social Reaction Theories: Labeling & Conflict
Readings: S&S, Chapter 4 (pp. 129-136)

April 3

Examination

Social, Community, and Environmental Influences on Delinquency

April 8

The Family & Delinquency
Readings: S&S, Chapter 7
Guest speakers – Shoreline Drug Treatment Center

April 10-11

Prison Field Trip to Huntsville, Texas

April 15

Drug Use & Delinquency
Readings: S&S, Chapter 10
Guest Speakers: Shoreline Drug Treatment Center

April 22

Peers & Delinquency: Juvenile Gangs & Groups
Readings: S&S, Chapter 8
Guest speaker – Det. Albert Armendariz, CCPD

April 24

Drug Use & Delinquency
Readings: S&S, Chapter 10
Gender & Delinquency
Readings: S&S, Chapter 6
Guest speakers: Homer Flores and juvenile officers

April 29

Schools & Delinquency
Guest Speaker: Capt. Kirby Warnke
Readings: S&S, Chapter 9

May 1 Life in the Urban Ghetto
Readings: Kozol - finish

DATE TOPIC

May 6 Delinquency Prevention: Social and Developmental Perspectives
Conclusions & Review for Final Examination
Readings: S&S, Chapter 11

Schedule Subject to Change

**Juvenile Delinquency
CRIJ/SOCI 4331.001
Course Requirements**

- * Examinations: Three examinations, including final. Examinations will include multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. Make-up examinations will be given in exceptional circumstances or with a doctor's note.
- * Attendance. Attendance is required for a passing grade in the course. Final grade will be lowered 2 points for each absence after the third.

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

3 Examinations 33 1/3% each

Extra Credit

Student who wish to earn 10 points extra credit may take home a Baby Think It Over Doll for a 24-hour period. Students who opt for this will prepare an essay describing the experience of 'parenting' or put together a photo album that documents the experience.

For those students for whom the baby experience is not viable, they may prepare a 5 page Event Response Analysis, as per attached.

Academic Honesty

Students are reminded of the university's strict prohibition against cheating and plagiarism. Punishment for such behavior may include expulsion from the university and a grade of F. Read attached sheet carefully to avoid plagiarism.

Classroom Etiquette

Students are reminded that once they enter the classroom, they are expected to behave courteously and respectfully to everyone. They are expected to turn off cell phones, refrain from talking to neighbors and eating, and they should not leave the classroom unless absolutely necessary to use the bathroom or in case of emergency. They are to use computers only to facilitate note taking. The teacher reserves the right to ask students to turn off computers.

Important Dates to Remember

February 19	Examination
March 17-23	Spring Break!
April 3	Examination
May 13 (Tuesday)	Final Examination

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

If you are majoring, or planning to major in a field taught in the College of Liberal Arts, and if you have not yet obtained a signed **degree plan**, you should see your Academic Advisor immediately. Degree plans are important and useful to successful progress toward graduation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course students should be able to do the following:

- Understand the problems of youth in American society.
- Describe the nature of adolescence and the history of childhood over time.
- Explain the nature of cognitive development in adolescence.
- Explain the extent and nature of juvenile delinquency in the US today and the sources of these data.
- Discuss the sociological views of delinquency: Social Structure Theories, Social Process Theories, Social Reaction Theories, and Social Conflict Theory.
- Be familiar with the link between family relationships and juvenile delinquency.
- Understand the complex association between family breakup and delinquent behavior.
- Understand the relationship between discipline, supervision styles and juvenile crime.
- Discuss how parental and sibling misconduct influences delinquent behaviors.
- Discuss the association between child abuse and delinquent behavior.
- Understand the association between peers and delinquency.
- Discuss the history of gangs in the US.
- Know the nature and extent of gang activity.
- Discuss the theories of gang development and why youth join gangs.
- Know how police departments are undertaking gang prevention and suppression.
- Discuss the crisis in American education and the relationship between schools and delinquency.
- Discuss the linkages between delinquent behavior and student experiences within the educational system.
- Explain the causes of student alienation from the educational experience.
- Discuss recent school attacks.
- Understand the relationship between drug use and delinquency.
- Understand the extent and nature of the drug problem among American youth today.
- Discuss how teenage drug use in this country has changed over time.
- Discuss the main explanations for why youths take drugs.
- Argue the pros and cons of government use of drug-control strategies.
- Discuss changes in the female delinquency rate over time and the nature and extent of female delinquency today.
- Discuss cognitive differences between males and females.
- Discuss differences in socialization between boys and girls and how it might affect their behavior.
- Explain the treatment girls receive by the juvenile justice system and how it differs from the treatment of boys.
- Explain the difference between delinquency prevention and delinquency control.