

Delinquent Behavior
SOC 301 (2): Spring 2010
MWF 1:30-2:20 am
Lommen Hall

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Office Hours:
Tuesdays: 9:00-4:00
Wednesdays: 2:30-5:30
or by appointment

Course Description and Learning Objectives:

This course examines a variety of theoretical perspectives and empirical studies of juvenile delinquency. The primary focus of this course is to discuss sociological and criminological explanations for contemporary delinquent behavior. Also, the influence of family, peers, and social institutions on delinquent behavior will be explored, as well as the development of the concepts of juvenile delinquency and adolescence.

Students should be able to: (1) demonstrate a general understanding of theoretical explanations of juvenile delinquency; (2) develop and use critical thinking skills necessary to analyze contemporary delinquent behavior; and (3) discuss their own perspectives of delinquency in relationship to social scientific research and data.

Required Text:

Thompson, William E. and Jack E. Bynum. 2010. *Juvenile Delinquency: A Sociological Approach* (8th edition). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

* You will be required to read additional articles as assigned during this course. Each article will be made available to you via electronic reserve, library databases, or email attachments. Please let me know if you have trouble obtaining a copy of the text or readings.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Class Participation:	100 pts	A = 90-100%
Current Events:	100 pts	B = 80-89%
Exams (2):	<u>200 pts</u>	C = 70-79%
TOTAL:	400 points	D = 60-69%
		F = 59% and below

Class Participation (100 points):

You will be given the opportunity to earn 100 points through in-class activities, response essays to films and/or guest lectures, and quizzes.

Current Events Assignment (100 points):

Ten Fridays are specified in the Course Schedule as current event discussion days. On these days you are required to come to class prepared with a 1-page, typed summary of a current event that relates to the readings for the week. We will use your examples as the basis for class discussion. You can earn up to 10 points for each summary. No late summaries will be accepted without excused absence.

MSUM Academic Honesty Policy: “In academic work, students are expected to present original ideas and give credit for the ideas of others...When an instructor has convincing evidence of cheating or plagiarism, the following actions may be taken: assign a failing grade for the course...or report the offense, the evidence, and their action to the Dean of their college or the VP for Academic Affairs” (MSUM Student Handbook, 2008).

Exams (200 points):

Two exams (100 points each) will be given during the semester: midterm and final exam (see course schedule for dates). An in-class review session will precede each exam, and each exam will be given during class time. Make-up essay exams will be given to students who have excused absences on test days.

Excused Absences:

In order for any absence to be considered excused, I will need verification of the emergency or special circumstance (i.e. doctor's excuse, funeral listing).

PLEASE BRING TO MY ATTENTION ANY DIFFICULTIES YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING TEST-TAKING OR WRITING ABILITY - HELP IS AVAILABLE

MSUM Write Site = call 218-477-5937 for hours and locations

The Counseling Center = Bridges 260 – 218-477-2227; or 701-235-7335 (24-hr hotline)

Students with disabilities who believe they may need an accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact Greg Toutges, Coordinator of Disability Services at 477-5859 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY), CMU 114 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Course Schedule and Assignments (readings and assignments should be completed on day they appear on schedule – NOT the next day):**Week 1: Introductions and Foundations**

1/11: Introductions

1/13: Read Chapter 1

1/15: Read Chapter 2; in-class example of “current events” assignment for discussion

Week 2: Measuring Delinquency

1/18: NO CLASS

1/20: Read Chapter 3; QUIZ

1/22: Current Events assignment #1 due

Week 3: Classical, Biological, and Psychogenic Explanations

1/25: Read Chapter 4

1/27: Read Chapter 4; QUIZ

1/29: Current Events assignment #2 due

Week 4: Social Strain and Cultural Transmission Theories

2/1: Read Chapter 5: in-class activity

2/3: Read Chapter 5

2/5: Current Events assignment #3 due

Week 5: Social Strain and Cultural Transmission Theories

2/8: In-class film: “The Outsiders”

2/10: In-class film, cont...

2/12: Film reaction essay due

Week 6: Social Learning and Social Control Theories

2/15: Read Chapter 6

2/17: Read Chapter 6

2/19: Current Events assignment #4 due

Week 7: Labeling and Radical/Conflict Theories

2/22: Read Chapter 7

2/24: Read Chapter 7

2/26: Current Events assignment #5 due

Week 8

3/1: Read “Mall Rats and Life in the Mall” article; QUIZ

3/3: Review for Midterm Exam

3/5: In-class Midterm Exam

Week 9: Integrative Theories

3/8: Read Chapter 8

3/10: Read Chapter 8

3/12: Current Events assignment #6 due

Week 10 – Spring Break [3/15-3/19]**Week 11: The Family and Juvenile Delinquency**

3/22: Read Chapter 9

3/24: Read Chapter 9

3/26: Current Events assignment #7 due

Week 12: Schools and Delinquency

3/29: In-class documentary film: “War on Kids”

3/31: NO CLASS

4/2: NO CLASS

Week 13: Schools and Delinquency, cont...

4/5: NO CLASS

4/7: Read Chapter 10

4/9: Current Events assignment #8 due

Week 14: School Violence

4/12: Read “Why Kids Kill” – electronic reserve

4/14: Read “Explaining and Responding to School Violence” – electronic reserve

4/16: Current Events assignment #9 due

Week 15: The Youth Subculture and Delinquency

4/19: Read Chapter 11

4/21: NO CLASS

4/23: Current Events assignment #10 due

Week 16: Putting Theory to Practice

4/26: Read Chapter 16

4/28: Read Chapter 16

4/30: QUIZ

Week 17:

5/3: Last day of class; Summary and In-class review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 7 @ 3:00pm

***This syllabus is subject to change. I reserve the right to modify readings, test dates, and assignments.**