

Department of Sociology, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ
Juvenile Delinquency CCJ/SOC 3670-80
Syllabus – Winter 2013

Professor

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Office Hours

Meeting times in person or phone can be scheduled by email appointment. I respond to my emails very quickly during weekdays – my turnaround time is usually less than 24 hours on weekdays. I am happy to talk over phone if you send me your phone number and a good time to call.

Course Prerequisites

SOC 101 Principles of Sociology

Required Text and Web Tutor

- a. Text Book: Juvenile Delinquency: The Core, 4th Edition. Siegel/Welsh. ISBN 978-0-495-80986-9 . You can get the regular printed textbook (for about \$112 new or about \$50 used) depending on where you look for it **OR** You can buy the text as an e-book for about \$55.99 at www.ichapters.com or www.coursesmart.com

Other Requirements

- a. Use of College Email is required.
- b. This being an online course, Blackboard will be used for posting course lectures, announcements, submitting assignments, tests and all forms of communication. You should log in to Blackboard a couple of times every week to access course materials and complete the course requirements. I will be using, video, audio, PowerPoint, MS-Word, Adobe PDF file formats. Please make sure you have the necessary software on your computers.
- c. I have attached more details about BlackBoard and online courses at the end of the syllabus. If you have any doubts and concerns please email me.
- d. You are expected to read the assigned text book and participate in all activities of the class. All work **MUST** be submitted as per the deadlines. **No late submissions will be accepted.**
- e. Your submission towards discussion board participation will be counted as attendance. Standard WPU attendance policy applies.

Course Description

This course will introduce to the students an overview of:

- a. The nature and extent of juvenile delinquent behaviors;
- b. Various causes of delinquent behaviors; and
- c. Social reactions toward the delinquency problems.

Course Objectives

- a. To acquaint students with the nature, extent, and patterns of juvenile delinquent behaviors;
- b. To acquaint students with the development of juvenile delinquent behaviors, prevention programs, and juvenile justice system;
- c. To develop an understanding of various theories about juvenile delinquent behaviors;
- d. To develop an understanding of the interrelationship among theory, research, and application of research in juvenile delinquency.

Student Learning Outcomes

- a. Understand the nature, extent, and patterns of juvenile delinquent behaviors;
- b. Understand briefly the major delinquency prevention programs and development of juvenile justice system;
- c. Understand various theories of juvenile delinquent behaviors; and
- d. Do research on juvenile delinquent behaviors.

Important Deadlines

LATE PAPERS AND POSTINGS WILL **NOT** BE ACCEPTED! **NO EXCEPTIONS**

28-Dec	Discussion Board One
31-Dec	Discussion Board Two
2-Jan	Discussion Board Three
4-Jan	Autobiography Paper (5-7 pages)
7-Jan	Discussion Board Four
9-Jan	Discussion Board Five
11-Jan	Discussion Board Six
14-Jan	Interview Paper (5-7 pages)
Ongoing	Chapter Quizzes (before 1/14/13 – see below)

Here is what you will do:

- You will read the textbook chapters. You will also access and read/watch/listen to all material provided in the folder for each chapter in Course Documents on BlackBoard.
- You will participate and respond to the discussion board posts as scheduled. For Discussion Boards provide thoughtful ideas and comments from your end. You will also need to respond to at least one post of another student. Your answers should be substantial and should include examples and perspectives from the text with your own interpretation of the material. I will be grading this very stringently so best effort is required to get good marks. Details of how the Discussion Board will be graded are provided in a grading rubric on BB and on this syllabus. You can submit your discussion board posts earlier than the deadline. Submission will be locked after the deadline.
- Take the chapter quizzes. You may take the tests AT ANY TIME up until midnight on the last day (January 14th). However, I strongly urge you to pace yourselves well and take them at regular intervals throughout the semester. Please note that as soon as you open a test you MUST complete it in 15 minutes or less in order to receive credit for it! You can find the tests (1 per chapter--15 multiple choice questions per test) under respective Chapter Folders in "Course Documents
- For your papers, the details are provided under BB>Assignments. Please follow all instructions to complete your papers.

Grading

Here is a break-up of the Total grade:

Quizzes	30% of grade,
Discussion posts	30% of grade
Papers	40% of grade.

The grading scale is as follows:

A 93-100, A- 90-92,
B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82,
C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72,
D+ 67-69, D 60-66, F<60

Refer to the Student Handbook for information about various policies and support services, especially:

Services for Students with Disabilities
Academic Integrity Policies
Attendance
Complaints about Grades
Writing Center

The online version of the student handbook can be found at:

<http://www.wpunj.edu/dotAsset/311881.pdf>

Discussion Board Rubric

Please BE SURE to follow the grading rubric, when you write your posts and CAREFULLY PROOFREAD YOUR PAPERS AND POSTINGS BEFORE YOU SUBMIT THEM.

As the rubric indicates, GRAMMATICAL AND SPELLING ERRORS WILL RESULT IN SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER GRADES!

You may earn up to 10 points (100%) per Board., 9 points = 90%, 8 points = 80% (etc.)

You may earn up to 10 points per Board. Each DB Forum is worth 5% of your final grade				
	0 to 1.9 Points	2.0 to 3.9 Points	4.0 to 5.9 Points	6.0 Points
Content (6 possible points)	A1: Content is less than minimal AND/OR there are several factual errors	A2: Includes only minimal information and minimal critical analysis about the topic.	A3: Displays clear knowledge and critically analyzes the topic. Introduces good real world examples by way of external links/videos/news etc. Subject knowledge appears to be good and is different from postings submitted by other students earlier.	A4: Covers topic in-depth and provides an excellent critical analysis of the topic. Details and examples are different from those submitted by other students earlier. Introduces excellent real world examples by way of external links/videos/news etc and explains its relation to the topic. Subject knowledge is excellent.
	0 to .4 points	.5 to .9 points	1.0 to 1.9 points	2.0 Points
Grammar/Clarity (2 possible points)	B1: Contains so many grammatical and/or spelling errors it is difficult to comprehend.	B2: Contains multiple grammatical and/or spelling errors that make it somewhat difficult to follow.	B3: Contains few grammatical and/or spelling errors. The quality of writing is not a distraction.	B4: There are no grammatical and/or spelling errors and the writing is excellent.
	0 to .4 points	.5 to .9 points	1.0 to 1.9 points	2.0 Points
Discusses topic effectively with others (2 possible points)	C1: Does not mention or minimally mentions any other student's posting. Provides 1 to 4 additional postings on the same day.	C2: Mentions a student's posting but does not discuss it in any depth. Provides all 3-4 additional postings over 2-3 days.	C3: Discusses a classmate's posting in some depth and with some substance. Provides all 4 additional postings over 4-5 days.	C4: Discusses a classmate's posting effectively and offers a substantive critique of or support of it. Provides 4 or more additional postings over 4-5 days.

Delinquency Autobiography Paper (20 points)

Write your delinquency autobiography. Describe past and/or current involvement in delinquent behavior, and then analyze it. Use at least two of the theories presented in lecture or the textbook to explain why your life unfolded the way it has. If you have always lived the "straight and narrow" life, then use theory to explain why you did not get involved in various delinquent behaviors. The paper should be 5 to 6 full pages in length, typed, and double-spaced (using a 12-point font size and 1-inch margins on all sides). I will dock points if the paper does not meet these requirements.

All of the content in your papers will remain confidential, and will not affect how I treat you as a student. If you are in doubt as to whether or not you should include something in your paper though, do not include it-- only write about what you feel comfortable discussing. Papers will not be viewed by anyone but me, and will be deleted at the end of the semester.

Include the following in your paper:

1. Part I (20%): Describe your involvement in current and/or past delinquent behaviors (or lack of the same).
2. Part 2 (25%): Describe the theories you want to apply to your delinquency autobiography in detail, using the textbook and/or lecture notes. You may also use outside sources that have additional information about theories discussed in class. Assume that I do not know these theories. I want to know that you really know and understand them yourself. You are the expert explaining the theories to the reader.
3. Part 3 (40%): Analyze your aforementioned behaviors in the context of the theories you chose (Why did I engage in these behaviors? Why do I continue to do these behaviors? Why did I change from some types of deviant behaviors to others? or, Why did I stop altogether?). Use terms and ideas from the theories to explicitly link the theory to your behaviors. Be specific.
4. Writing quality such as organization, word usage, spelling, grammar, etc (5%): Your paper should be well written and should read like a well-reasoned argument rather than a series of unrelated ideas. Taking time to proofread work takes care of most of these kinds of errors.

Attach your MS-Word document to the link.

Interview Paper (20 points)

There are a variety of people involved in the Juvenile System. They could be a police officer, a judge, a probation officer, someone from DYFS or someone who runs programs for delinquents (basically anyone who interacts with juveniles professionally). I would like you to interview one such person and ask them a variety of relevant questions based on the material you have learnt in this course.

Attach your MS-Word document to the link. Using all of this information you should write a 5-7 page paper (without cover page and reference page) in times new roman 12 point font, double spaced and one inch margin all four sides. Please do not write irrelevant stuff, keep your paper interesting and well-organized. Make sure you answer all parts of the exercise.

In your paper: You should explain why you selected this particular person for interview, their contact information (so I can check with them if you actually met them). Describe their work with juveniles and in what capacity they interact with juveniles. Through your questions you should gain a better understanding about the ground facts related to juvenile delinquency, juvenile system and how it works (or does not work). Discuss theories that tie back to your interviewee's opinions. How can the system be improved based on what the interviewee says? Use many examples or quotes of what your interviewee says. In conclusion, describe what you have learnt about juvenile delinquency in the process of doing the interview and writing this paper. In a separate sheet list the questions you asked the interviewee. In another sheet list the references and sources you used to write this paper.

How to Access Blackboard:

To log on to Bb point your web browser to <http://bb.wpunj.edu> and click the Login button in the upper left. Then enter your username and password in the spaces provided and click login again -- you'll find your course Bb sites listed on the right. Some things to be aware of as you work with Blackboard:

1. You probably won't find all your courses listed; the only ones that will appear are those that have been activated by the professor teaching the course. Professors who don't use Blackboard will not activate their courses.
2. Your username is comprised of your lastname and firstinitial, usually appended with a numeral. If you don't know your WPUNJ system username password you can use the Username lookup link at <http://bb.wpunj.edu> , or go to it directly at: https://webapps.wpunj.edu/misc/username_lookup/username_lookup.cfm
3. If you are already logged in to the WPUNJ system through WPCconnect you won't have to re-enter your username and password -- just click the first login button.
4. Extensive Bb help, including a number of dynamic animations, can be found at <http://www.wpunj.edu/irt/teambb/student/>
5. You can always obtain Bb help by using the Problem Report form at <http://bb.wpunj.edu> , or by going to it directly at: <http://euphrates.wpunj.edu/bb/sc/> .