

Sociology 332 Juvenile Delinquency Spring 2005

Instructor

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7:30 am – 9:00, 1:30-2:00

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Course Description

Juvenile Delinquency is intended to be an introductory course in the study of norm-violating behavior among youth. Primary emphasis is placed on basic concepts, an understanding of the juvenile justice system, theories of delinquent behavior and social control responses to youthful misconduct.

Required Reading

Larry Siegel and Brandon Welsh, *Juvenile Delinquency: The Core*, 2004, 2nd Edition
Wadsworth Publishing. The text should also come with a CD entitled *Crime Scenes*.

Some additional supplemental readings have also been also been put on the class web site. These are not required reading materials and they will not be included on the exams. However, they may can provide additional insight and deeper coverage into some of the topics covered in the course. These materials can be read or printed from the web site using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Course Format and Expectation

Students will be graded on a 400 point scale with final grades determined by the following scale: A (360-400); B (320-359) C(280-319); D(240-279). The course material and point system is based on a contract system in which students determine, in part, how they will be assessed.

Class points can be earned in three ways:

- three mandatory midterm exams (100 points each). Any student who misses a midterm exam must take a makeup exam on Wednesday May 5th at 9 am in room 139 GH. Only one makeup exam may be taken that day. The exam will be comprehensive and include all of the material covered in class.

the remaining 100 points can come from either:

- the best 5 of 6 blackboard quizzes (5 @ 20 points each), or
- two of three group projects (2 @ 50 points each), or
- a research paper on a selected topic (100 points).

(1) **Lecture** The course is primarily taught using a lecture format. Classroom presentations will use Powerpoint slides and a number of videotapes to illustrate important issues in the juvenile justice system. Mastery of this material will be tested on three midterm examinations.

(2) **Blackboard Quizzes** Some of the assigned reading material will not be reviewed in lecture. Instead, students choosing this option will be expected to read and master the material on their own prior to the midterm examinations. To facilitate learning, students choosing this option will also be required to take review quizzes over the non-lecture material using the Blackboard. This material will also be included on the midterm examinations.

Blackboard quizzes must be taken during an open window (see below) and no make-up quizzes will be given.

(3) **Group Projects** Three group projects have been included in the course, and students choosing this option can choose to complete **any two** of the three projects. Each of the projects will be done in groups of three. One group project (*Crime Scenes: Instrument of Death*) involves a computer simulation using the CD that comes with the textbook. The second group project will require viewing a tape in class and applying criminological theories to “explain” the delinquent behavior shown in the tape. The third option involving visiting a juvenile treatment facility and doing an in-class presentation. Each of the group project options must be completed during an open window (see below).

(4) **Research Paper** Students may choose to work on an individual research paper worth 100 points. The paper must be on one of the approved topics and follow the guidelines given (please see our web site at www.wku.edu~john.faine for more complete details on the research paper option). The paper is due no later than class time Tuesday, April 26th.

How to Contract for your Grade

Students will need to decide quickly whether they will do blackboard quizzes, group projects or a paper in order to begin elected work in a timely manner. Starting the second week of school (January 18th through January 21st) each student must complete the course contract. A “survey” will be placed on our Blackboard site to record your decision. This must be done no later than Friday January 21st.

To do this, log onto www.wku.edu, choose Blackboard from the “quick links”, and log on using your Topnet username and password. If you are doing a group project, you will be asked to enter the names of the other two students in your group and which of the three projects your group will do.

Can you change your contract? The answer is NO if you choose the Blackboard option since the quizzes are only open in a short window and you need to start promptly. If you do a group project, and you fail to do the *Crime Scenes* project, then both the *Theory Project* and the *Field Trip/Class Presentations Project* will be due at or about the same time.

Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to complete all reading assignments. Class roll will be called on a regular basis. The instructor reserves the right to use class attendance in determining the final grade of any student near a letter grade change.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Do you know what you’ll do after graduation? Do you have any idea how to get a job using your soc, psych or criminology expertise? If you are like most students, the answer to both questions is no. So, I have put together three “extra credit” opportunities for this semester and each of you can do **any two of the following three opportunities**:

(1) Most state jobs require that you take and pass a merit test to be eligible for employment. There are different tests for each job and the tests are free. You can **earn 5 points for each**

test you take (a maximum of ten points). Interested? Go to <http://personnel.ky.gov>
(2) the federal government has been hiring like crazy the past two or three years and these jobs have terrific benefits. A former student of mine has put together a manual of how to get a federal job. You will get **5 points of extra credit** by initiating the application process and applying for a federal job. For starters, go to the main web site for all federal jobs <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/> Check the class homepage at www.wku.edu/~john.faine and look for *Tips on Federal Employment* We hope to have it ready soon.
(3) bring evidence that you have made it at least to the physical examination level of any job application for a career in law enforcement. This is actually an easy step after an initial application for a law enforcement job. **You will earn 10 points of extra credit.**

Bad Weather/Class Cancellation

In the event that class must be cancelled either due to bad weather or other unforeseen events, students should follow this emergency procedure. First, check the voice-mail message at my office (270-745-2291). Instructions will be left regarding the class schedule for the next class period. If possible, also check the class homepage or any special announcements. Should class be cancelled on or just before an examination date, you should ordinarily assume that the examination will be given the very next class period.

WKU Policy for Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room 445, Potter Hall. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Reading Assignments and Examination Schedule

Exam #1 Thursday February 10th

Reading Assignment: chs. 1, 2

Blackboard Quizzes: ch. 11 and ch. 12 (open window 2:00 pm 1-13 to 2:00 pm 2-10)

Exam #2 Thursday March 17th

Reading Assignment: Chs. 3, 4

Blackboard Quizzes: ch. 7 and ch. 9 (opens 2:00pm 2-10 to 2:00 pm 3-17)

Exam #3 Final Exam week as scheduled

Reading Assignment: chs. 5, 14

Blackboard Quizzes: ch. 8 and ch. 13 (open 2:00 pm 3-17 and will close at 2:00 pm Monday May 2nd)

How to Take Blackboard Review Quizzes

Each of the six Blackboard quizzes is worth 20 points, but only the best five scores will be counted. Quizzes can only be taken during the "open window" dates (see above). Blackboard is reached from www.wku.edu under "quick links" as the **UC 101 Blackboard**. You sign on with the same password that you used to register on TopNet.

Each quiz is composed of a random sample of multiple-choice questions. When you are

prompted for a quiz password, enter crim.

Rules, Rules, Rules!!

- You are on your honor. Everyone works independently. Absolutely no collusion.
- Take the quizzes closed book. You won't learn anything by looking up the questions during the quiz. Don't expect the same questions on the midterm, but the quizzes are to help you get prepared for the midterm.
- Your quiz score will be shown after you submit the quiz but you will not know what you missed.
- The quizzes are timed. You have 20 minutes to take each. A timer will be displayed. You will not be cut off if you go over 20 minutes nor will it affect the score shown. But you will be assessed a penalty when you points are totaled at the end of the semester.
- Quizzes may be taken more than once, but Blackboard will record only the last quiz taken (even if it is lower than a previous score for the same quiz).

Group Projects

A. Crime Scenes Review (50 points)

The computer CD entitled *Crime Scenes* contains a video presentation entitled *Instrument of Death*. In the video a teenager has been murdered. You are taken through the steps in the juvenile justice process and the facts available to make critical decisions regarding the case. Working in assigned groups of three, students will write a short paper justifying each of the decisions based on the facts of the case. The details are explained in a separate document on our web page: www.wku.edu/~john.faine **This paper is due at the beginning of class on Thursday March 17th**

B. Theory Project (50 points)

Each group will be assigned to watch a selected videotape illustrating delinquent behavior. Each group must decide what one of the theories we cover (chs. 3,4 and 5) "best" explains the behavior in the video. Working in assigned groups of three, students will write a short paper presenting the theory, reviewing the case, and typing the theory to the behavior witnessed. The details are explained in a separate document on our web page: www.wku.edu/~john.faine **This paper is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday April 26th**

C. Field Trip/Class Presentation (50 points)

Groups choosing this option will make arrangements to visit a juvenile treatment facility (detention center, day treatment program, group home, residential treatment program) in either Kentucky or Tennessee. The facility may be either public or private. Following the visit, the group will make a class presentation (approximately 15 minutes in length). A list of areas to investigate during the visit and guidelines for a successful classroom presentation are covered in a separate document on the web page www.wku.edu/~john.faine . **These presentations will be scheduled in advance for March 19th, 21st, 26th or 28th**