

CCJS 450: Advanced Juvenile Delinquency
Fall 2026
Section 0201
TuTh 11:00am-12:15pm
LEF 2166

INSTRUCTOR

Professor Morabito

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Email: jmorab21@umd.edu

Office hours: Mondays 11:00am-2:00pm (walk-in hours); Tuesdays 2:00-3:00pm (appointment required)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines juvenile delinquency in America. Through the course, we will explore the nature and extent of juvenile delinquency, historical approaches as they pertain to juvenile offenders, sociological and criminological theories and research on juvenile delinquency's correlates and causes, social contexts of juvenile delinquency including the institutions of families, schools, and peers, and social responses to juvenile delinquency both within and outside of the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the nature and extent of juvenile delinquency in the United States.
2. Explain the development of the modern juvenile justice system in the United States.
3. Identify and analyze criminological theoretical explanations of juvenile delinquency.
4. Evaluate the relationship between families, schools, and peers on delinquency.
5. Understand the social responses to delinquency, both within and outside of the juvenile justice system.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

CCJS105 and CCJS300

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Bates, K.A. & Swan, R.S. (2024). *Juvenile Delinquency in a Diverse Society*, 4th Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 9781071862230. You may not use a prior edition.

COURSE WEBSITE

This class uses Canvas (ELMS) for distribution of important course information. I will use it to make announcements to the class, post reading material that is not in your textbook, and update your grades. Go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID and password. You are able to adjust your individual settings to receive email notifications when new content is posted, if you wish; I strongly encourage you to adjust your settings so that you receive email notifications when announcements are posted. Please be sure to check this site regularly, as you

are responsible for knowing the material that I post. If you have any problems accessing ELMS, please contact the support desk at 301-405-1500.

GRADING STRUCTURE AND POLICY

Your final grade will be determined according to the following assignment categories:

15% Classroom Activities

15% Quizzes

20% Reflection Papers

20% State Project

15% Midterm Exam

15% Final Exam

Important notes about assignments:

1. I do not allow students to resubmit assignments to earn a new grade or return partial credit to a previously graded assignment.
2. I do not allow retakes of any quizzes or exams.
3. I reserve the right to adjust the weighting, points, and/or course requirements if necessitated by an emergency as declared by the University.

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

97-100% A+ 96%-93% A 92%-90% A-

89-87% B+ 86%-83% B 82%-80% B-

79%-77% C+ 76%-73% C 72%-70% C-

69%-67% D+ 66%-63% D 62%-60% D-

59% and below F

Final grades will be rounded up to the next percentage point at the 0.45% threshold. Grades will not be curved or negotiated at the end of the course

COURSE FORMAT

Lectures for this course will be delivered in an in-person format, barring instructor illness or emergencies. There is not an option to attend class virtually, lectures are not recorded for students, and lecture notes/slides will not be posted or distributed under any circumstances. Students are expected to exchange contact information with at least one peer so that they have someone to solicit lecture notes from if they miss class. Once the student has obtained notes from a classmate, the student is of course welcome to reach out to me for further clarification. In addition, please note that students **are not** allowed to take audio and/or video recordings of class unless they have a specific ADS accommodation, and students are not allowed to take photographs of slides unless given specific permission.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Students are expected to attend class regularly, on time, and participate in all classroom activities. Classroom activities may include discussions, written assignments, surveys, worksheets, etc. To obtain credit for classroom activities, students must be present in their registered class on the day the activities are assigned. Each activity will be worth a certain number of points, to be announced when assigned. I will also announce whether the activity will be graded for completion or for content/accuracy. You must have paper and a pen/pencil with you in class in order to be prepared to participate in these activities. There are no makeups for

classroom activities, except in cases of excused absences which require prior notification and acceptable forms of documentation. Due to the nature of these activities, they are not announced in advance. At the end of the semester, the lowest grade for these activities will be dropped.

QUIZZES

There will be 5 quizzes given in class to assess your understanding of the lecture and reading material. I will announce what material will be covered on each quiz one week prior to the quiz date. Quizzes will be given during the first 10 minutes of class, so be sure to arrive on time. Students who arrive late will only be given the time remaining to complete their quiz (i.e., if you are 3 minutes late, you will have 7 minutes to complete your quiz); students who arrive more than 10 minutes late will not be allowed to take the quiz. The quiz format may include multiple choice questions, matching, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and short answer questions. You may not use any course materials (i.e., your notes, the textbook) while taking the quizzes. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

REFLECTION PAPERS

Reflection papers will be periodically assigned throughout the semester to give students the opportunity to think deeply and critically about the topics we are studying in class. There will be a total of five reflections assigned. All students are required to complete reflections 1 and 5 but may choose which other reflection to complete (pick one of reflection 2, 3, or 4) for a total of three reflection papers this semester. The use of AI tools is not permitted on any reflection. Each reflection's due date is listed in the course schedule; detailed instructions for each reflection and the grading rubric will be posted on ELMS. Reflections must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date.

STATE PROJECT

As we will discuss in lecture, the juvenile justice system and approaches to juvenile delinquency vary across the United States. Each student will be randomly assigned to a state and will be required to research that state's juvenile justice system as well as current events pertaining to juvenile delinquency in that state. The use of AI tools is not permitted. Detailed instructions and the grading rubric will be discussed in class and provided on ELMS in the fourth week of the course. The project is due on ELMS on **Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 11:59pm.**

EXAMS

There are two exams for this course, a midterm exam and a final exam. Each exam will include a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions, for a total of 50 questions. The exams will be based on lecture and reading material, as well as any assigned videos or documentaries.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will be given in class during our regular class time on **Thursday, October 22, 2026.** You may not use any course materials while taking the midterm. Please be sure to bring a pencil, an eraser, and your University ID to the exam. Please be on time for the exam, as once the first student has turned in the exam no other students will be allowed to sit for the exam.

Final Exam: The final exam will be given online on **Monday, December 14, 2026, from 10:30am-12:30pm**. You may use your notes while you take the exam, but I strongly recommend that you study for the exam as if you did not have access to your course material. You may not collaborate on or discuss the exam with anyone, nor may you use AI or other tools to answer exam questions. The exam will not be cumulative. No exceptions or adjustments to exam times will be made for technical difficulties. I highly encourage you to complete the exam with minimal distractions and a reliable internet connection. Exams not completed by the deadline will receive a 0. University policy allows students with more than three exams in one day to request accommodation.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit may be assigned at my discretion. Any opportunities will be given on a class-wide basis.

MAKEUP POLICY/MISSED ASSESSMENTS/LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Makeup quizzes, exams, and assignments will only be given in cases of excused absences. University policy states that excused absences include religious observances, mandatory military obligation, illness of the student or illness of an immediate family member, required participation in university activities, death in the family, and required court appearances. Changes in employment schedules, personal travel, technical/internet problems, etc. do not qualify as excused absences.

The student must notify me in writing **prior** to missing an exam, quiz, or major graded assignment. If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam, quiz, or assignment due date with an approved absence (you must notify me at least one week prior to the due date), you will be expected to take the exam or quiz or turn in the assignment prior to the exam/assignment due date.

Exams and Quizzes: Makeup quizzes and exams will only be given in cases of excused absences which always require prior written notice to the start of the exam or quiz and documentation to determine if your absence was excused. If you miss an exam or quiz and notify me after the start of the exam or quiz, you will not be able to reschedule the exam or quiz. Please contact me immediately (before the start of the exam or quiz) to let me know if you will not make the exam or quiz so we can begin the process of rescheduling while you gather documentation. All makeup exams or quizzes must be completed as soon as you are able to return but no later than one week after the missed exam or quiz. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a grade of zero for the exam or quiz. Makeup exams may be a different format (e.g., short-answers and essay questions) and contain different questions than the original exam.

State Project and Reflection Papers: A late state project or reflection without a documented, excused absence will receive a grade reduction of 10% per day the assignment is late and will only be accepted up to five (5) days from the original due date. For instance, if you turn your assignment in 3 days late, the highest grade you can earn on it is a 70% due to the 30% grade reduction. Grade reductions start immediately after the deadline has passed; weekends and holidays count toward this calculation. If you have a documented, excused absence for the

assignment due date, you will be expected to turn the assignment in by the next day, unless other arrangements are made with me. You must provide me with prior notification that you are unable to turn your assignment in on time due to the documented, excused absence in order to avoid grade reductions. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a grade of zero.

Classroom Activities: Classroom activities are not considered major scheduled grading events. While students must still provide prior notification of your excused absence in order to be eligible for a makeup, students may, one time per semester, provide a self-signed excuse as documentation of a medically necessitated absence from a single classroom activity. The template for the self-excusals can be found on the UMD Health Center website.

I reserve the right to verify all documentation of absences. If you are suspected of fabricating documentation, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

On occasion, the University may cancel classes due to inclement weather. If the university is closed on a day that a graded assignment is scheduled to be due or an assessment is scheduled to be given, the graded assignment or assessment will be rescheduled for the next class day that the University is open. If the University opens late and the opening time is after the start time of our class, we will not hold class that day. Please note that the course schedule, including reading assignments, may need to be adjusted as a result of inclement weather-related class cancellations. I will keep you updated via ELMS of any necessary changes.

ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SERVICES

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service office (ADS) and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS form which has been updated for Spring 2026. You must provide me with this form **by September 15, 2026**, in person so that we can discuss how I may best help you. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by ADS. ADS students who are requesting to take their exams at the ADS testing office in Shoemaker Hall need to make arrangements to do so through the ADS website and must provide me with a testing form online **at least one week prior to the exam**; failure to do so will mean that the student must take the exam with the rest of the class. Any student taking an exam at the ADS office is expected to take the exam **on the same day and at the same starting time** as the rest of the class; if you feel that you are unable to take the exam at the same day due to a scheduling conflict (i.e., another class), you must discuss this with me prior to submitting your request to the ADS testing office and submit documentation of your conflict.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVATIONS & ATHLETICS

If you will be observing a religious holiday or will have a University athletic obligation that will cause you to miss class, a quiz, or an exam, please let me know **by September 15, 2026**. If you will be missing an exam or quiz, you will be expected to take it prior to the exam/quiz date. If you will be missing an assignment due date, you will be expected to turn it in prior to the due date. When you contact me, please let me know which specific course responsibilities you will be missing due to your absence; you are responsible for looking through the syllabus to see

which due dates/exam dates/etc. occur on a day you will be absent and to make necessary arrangements.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/CONDUCT

The success of this class is dependent on our ability as a class to maintain an environment conducive to everyone's learning. As a department and a university, we expect both faculty and students to be prepared for class. We also expect students to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct. Disruptive behavior hinders other students' opportunity to learn and will not be tolerated in my classroom. Disruptive behaviors include arriving late, leaving the classroom repeatedly, making loud and distracting noises, playing music, vaping or similar activities, sleeping, using cell phones or prohibited technological devices, leaving class early, side conversations, speaking without being recognized, and interrupting other students while they are speaking. Disruptive behaviors may result in being asked to leave the class. In addition, this class will cover subjects that may personally affect you, someone you know, or other students; some of the material presented may touch on controversial topics. It is imperative that we maintain an environment where every student feels comfortable in the classroom. Students must treat each other and me with respect, particularly when discussing these topics. No one has the right to attack another's opinion or to attack another member of this class. Students who do not adhere to these policies will be asked to leave class and will be subject to referral to the CCJS Undergraduate Director, the Office of Student Conduct, or Campus Police.

I am committed to making this class a positive experience for all students. You can expect that I will start class on time and not keep you past our end time, that I will be prepared for class with class, that I will make every effort to provide feedback on course assignments within two weeks of the assignment deadline, and that I will stick to the syllabus unless there is an emergency. Please visit www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions. All campus-wide policies will be enforced.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

I will allow the use of laptops or tablets in class for notetaking and specified class activities. I do not allow the use of cell phones in my classroom. If inappropriate use of technology becomes a repeated infraction, you will be asked to leave class for the rest of the day. I reserve the option to rescind laptop/tablet privileges for the remainder of the course if these problems continue to occur.

EMAIL POLICY

Email is the University's official form of communication. As such, I expect that you will check your email daily to ensure that you receive important announcements relating to this class. In addition, I expect your emails to me to be professional. Please do not use chat-speak in your emails to me. You must email me from your University email address, not a personal email. I do not guarantee a response to emails sent from a non-University email account. Please be sure to include CCJS450 in the subject line of your email, so that I know which class you are in. Please do not email me through ELMS.

It is important to me to provide timely responses to your emails. I will make an effort to provide a same-day email response to emails received during business hours, Monday-Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm. I do not respond to emails over the weekend or on holidays and will respond to any emails by 5:00pm the next business day. Keeping these guidelines in mind, if you do not receive a reply from me within 48 hours of when you can anticipate a response, please re-send the email. Before you email me, please check the syllabus and ELMS announcements to see if your question can be answered there (e.g., “what day is the exam?” is answered in the syllabus).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

I take academic integrity very seriously. The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity which sets standards for academic integrity for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards in your courses. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. Some of your assignments will be collected via Turnitin on our course ELMS page; Turnitin is an originality checker that helps me verify the integrity of student work. For information about Turnitin, how it works, and the feedback reports you may have access to, visit [Turnitin Originality Checker for Students](#).

The use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, TerpAI, Claude, Grammarly, etc.) is prohibited for any part of the assignment process in this class. Any suspected use of AI will be considered a violation of academic integrity and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

In this course, academic dishonesty of any form will not be tolerated; if it is suspected, I will refer the case to the Office of Student Conduct. I strongly encourage you to visit <http://shc.umd.edu/SHC/StudentAcademicDishonesty.aspx> for further information about the Code of Academic Integrity, what constitutes academic dishonesty, and the Office of Student Conduct. If you are ever unclear about acceptable levels of collaboration, when and/or how to cite, or what actions I consider a breach of academic integrity, please ask me!

OFFICE HOURS

My office hours this semester are listed at the top of this document. My Monday office hours are drop-in, with no need to make a prior appointment. My Tuesday afternoon office hours are by appointment only. To attend office hours at this time, you will need to email me by 5:00pm the day before to indicate that you plan to attend.

NOTICE OF MANDATORY REPORTING

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible University Employee,” and I must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to UMD’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy on Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of UMD’s confidential resources, such as CARE to Stop Violence (located on the Ground Floor of the Health Center) at 301-741-3442 or the Counseling Center (located at the Shoemaker Building) at 301-314-7651. You may also seek assistance or supportive measures from UMD’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 301-405-1142, or emailing titleIXcoordinator@umd.edu. To view further

information on the above, please visit the Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct's website at ocrsm.umd.edu.

COURSE EVALUATIONS

At the end of the semester, you are encouraged to submit a course evaluation through Student Feedback on Course Experiences to help faculty and administrators improve teaching and learning methods. All information submitted to Course Experiences is confidential. Campus will notify you when Student Feedback on Course Experiences is open for you to complete your evaluations at the end of the semester.

COPYRIGHT

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Course Schedule and Reading Assignments (subject to change)

Week	Date	Lecture Topics	Reading Assignments
1	Tu 9/1 Th 9/3	Course Introduction Delinquency Myths and Facts	Syllabus
2	Tu 9/8 Th 9/10	Introduction to Juvenile Delinquency Introduction to Juvenile Delinquency; Reflection 1 due	Chapter 1
3	Tu 9/15 Th 9/17	History of Juvenile Justice Creation of a Separate System; Quiz 1	Chapter 2 Chapter 11
4	Tu 9/22 Th 9/24	<i>Second Chance Kids</i> Transfer Laws	
5	Tu 9/29 Th 10/1	Understanding Delinquency; Quiz 2 Theories of Delinquency	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
6	Tu 10/6 Th 10/8	Theories of Delinquency, cont'd Guest Speaker; Reflection 2 due	Chapter 5
7	Tu 10/13 Th 10/15	Fall Break – enjoy your time off! <i>Boyz N the Hood</i>	
8	Tu 10/20 Th 10/22	<i>Boyz N the Hood</i> Midterm	
9	Tu 10/27 Th 10/29	Families in Context Schools in Context	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
10	Tu 11/3 Th 11/5	Reflection 3 due Peers and Gangs; Quiz 3	Chapter 9
11	Tu 11/10 Th 11/12	Drugs in Context Policing; State Project due	Chapter 10 Chapter 12
12	Tu 11/17 Th 11/19	Juvenile Court Juvenile Court Quiz 4	Chapter 13
13	Tu 11/24 Th 11/26	No Class; Reflection 4 due Thanksgiving	
14	Tu 12/1 Th 12/3	Juvenile Corrections Reentry and Restorative Justice	Chapter 14
15	Tu 12/8 Th 12/10	Prevention and Diversion; Quiz 5 Future of Juvenile Justice; Reflection 5 due	Chapter 15

FINAL EXAM (online): Monday, December 14, 2026, 10:30am-12:30pm Eastern Time