CCJS 450-0301 - Juvenile Delinquency

Robert Brame * rbrame@umd.edu
My office: 2139 LeFrak Hall
Classroom - 2102 Tydings Hall
Class meeting time: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45 (1/26/23-5/11/23)

Catalog course description: Examination of juvenile delinquency in the United States. Nature and extent of juvenile delinquency, historical approaches, sociological and criminological theories and research, social contexts including the institutions of families, schools, and peers, and social responses. Prevention, punishment, and treatment programs, both within and outside of the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.

Course prerequisites: CCJS 105 (Introduction to Criminology) and CCJS 300 (Criminological and Criminal Justice Research Methods)

Learning Outcomes: (1) you will understand the historical rationale for the distinct treatment of juveniles and young people in the criminal justice system; (2) you will be able to compare and contrast the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems; (3) you will be able to accurately describe what is known and what is not yet well understood about patterns and trends as well as key correlates of juvenile offending; (4) you will be able to critically assess the major theoretical perspectives that have been offered to explain juvenile criminality; and (5) you will be able to explain both the historical and contemporary criminal justice system responses to juvenile and youthful offending behaviors.


Course-related policies: We will follow all of the guidance and requirements described in "Course-Related Policies and Resources for Undergraduate Students" (link). You should review the webpage and let me know if you have any questions. In particular, this page explains policies related to academic integrity, standards of conduct, behavior, civility, respect, grade appeals, non-discrimination, accessibility and disability-related accommodations. Some of these items are discussed in more detail below.

Meetings and communication: I am always happy to meet with you about course material or logistical issues related to the class. My regular office hours are on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11-12. I would recommend that you email me if you're planning to visit so I know to expect you. Please understand that if you're going to ask me any questions about private information that I will ask you for your ID card first. Also, I do not discuss grades or any other private information over email. For security reasons, all email correspondence with me should come from your official University of Maryland email.
account. In the event that a class needs to be cancelled, I will post an announcement on ELMS.

Course grades: Your course grade will be based on 4 in-class, 75-minute exams and 4 focused typewritten essays (3 pages). Each exam will be comprised of multiple choice, true-false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. For each essay, you will be permitted to choose which 1 of 3 questions you would like to answer. You will work on each essay during the week before the exam and submit it on ELMS by 9am on the exam day. Each exam will be worth 18% of your final course grade and each essay will be worth 7% of your final course grade. Overall, this means that 72% of your course grade will be determined by the exam scores while the remaining 28% will be based on the essays. All grades will be posted on ELMS and you are always welcome to visit during office hours (or by appointment) to review and discuss your grades.

Grade scale: All grades will be based on the conventional 100-point scale. Letter grades will be assigned as follows: A+ = 98-100; A = 93-97; A- = 90-92; B+ = 88-89; B = 83-87; B- = 80-82; C+ = 78-79; C = 73-77; C- = 70-72; D+ = 68-69; D = 63-67; D- = 60-62; F = below 60. At the end of the semester, I will round your final numeric grade up or down to the nearest integer (i.e., 79.5 will round up to a 80 but 79.4 will round down to a 79).

Class attendance: There is no specific penalty for missing a regular class session. If you must miss a class session, I recommend you consult the assigned reading, confer with other students who attended, and meet with me during office hours (or by appointment) for clarification on any missed material. On exam days, we will hold class after the exam is over.

Missed exams: If you need to miss an exam, please ensure you follow University procedures (link) for timely notification and completion of late work. Absences related to religious observances or other known-in-advance circumstances need to be discussed with me by Wednesday 2/8/23. For purposes of this class, the limit for timely notification is no more than 24 hours after the exam has occurred. Timely completion of late exams will be no more than 1 week after the date the exam was given absent a compelling justification for an extension.

Late submission of essays: You will have approximately 1 week to work on each of your 4 essays this semester. It is your responsibility to plan your week so that you can work on your essay and submit it on time. Each essay is due on ELMS by 9am on the exam day. Any essays submitted after 9am on the exam day will receive a 1-point deduction for each hour the essay is late. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis consistent with University policy provided those extenuating circumstances are presented to me within 24 hours of the submission deadline. If you are traveling for athletic events or other approved absences on the day an essay is due, you must submit it before you go.

Accessibility and Disability Support: I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and
Disability Support Services (ADS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Spring 2023 semester.

Academic Integrity: If I become concerned that you have engaged in an act of academic dishonesty in this course (link), I will make a report to the Office of Student Conduct. Such a report does not constitute a finding of academic dishonesty. Any such report will be followed up with an orderly process by the Office of Student Conduct for discerning responsibility. An important component of the process is an opportunity for you to be clearly noticed about the evidence that raises concern and an opportunity for you to explain your actions. If the Office of Student Conduct determines that you are responsible for an act of academic dishonesty in this class, I will assign you a grade of zero for the discredited work.

Course Evaluation: I hope you will consider completing the course evaluation at the end of the semester. Your assessment helps me to further develop and improve the class and is much appreciated.

Course Outline:

Part 1: The Concept of Delinquency (1/26-2/21)

* Chapter 1: Childhood and delinquency
* Chapter 2: Nature and extent of delinquency
* Thursday 2/23: Exam #1 (and 1st essay due) - 9:30-10:45

Part 2: Theories of Delinquency (2/28-3/28)

* Chapter 3: Individual views of delinquency
* Chapter 4: Structure, process, culture, and delinquency
* Chapter 5: Social reaction, social conflict & delinquency
* Chapter 6: Developmental theories
* 3/22: Spring break; no class
* Thursday 3/30: Exam #2 (and 2nd essay due) - 9:30-10:45

Part 3: Key Influences and Correlates of Delinquency (4/4-4/18)

* Chapter 7: Gender
* Chapter 8: Family
* Chapter 9: Peers
* Chapter 10: Schools
* Chapter 11: Drug use
* Chapter 12: Prevention
* Thursday 4/20: Exam #3 (and 3rd essay due) - 9:30-10:45


* Chapter 13: Juvenile justice: then and now
* Chapter 14: Police
* Chapter 15: Juvenile court
* Chapter 16: Juvenile corrections
* Monday 5/15 Exam #4 (not cumulative; 4th essay due) 8:30-9:45am