

**University of Maryland, Universities at Shady Grove**  
**Course Syllabus**  
 CCJS 450 Advanced Juvenile Delinquency Spring 2022

<b>Class Begins:</b> 1/24/22	<b>Class Ends:</b> 5/9/22	<b>Final Exam:</b> TBD
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**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Carlotta A. Woodward	Office: N/A
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Office Hours: by appointment; before/after class	TA: none

**Course Information**

Course: CCJS450	Credits: 3
Prerequisites: CCJS105 and CCJS300	Co-requisites:
Meeting Day(s): Monday	Meeting Time(s): 12:30 – 1:45 and online. The online component is asynchronous. Building III – Room 2230

**Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice**  
**Univ. of MD, College Park @ Shady Grove**

Director: Wendy Stickle, Ph.D.	Phone number: 301-738-6307
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**Course Description**

We will examine juvenile delinquency in the United States. We will study the 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. We will also examine the prevention, punishment, and treatment programs, both within and outside of the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems. In keeping with socially relevant and policy-oriented perspectives, we will discuss the importance of the court and correctional system and the impact these have had on the youth of today.

**Core Learning Outcomes**

1. Understand the basic theories that describe juvenile delinquency from psychology, sociology, and criminal justice perspectives.
2. Understand juvenile delinquency as it interrelates with other systems including the family, the school and the courts.
3. Demonstrate a basic understanding of juvenile delinquency in its totality.
4. Identify factors that potentially cause juvenile delinquency, and understand basic treatment options regarding juvenile delinquency.
5. Provide students with an introduction to the research literature concerning juvenile delinquency and treatment outcomes.

**Text(s)**

Required Text: Regoli, R.M., Hewitt, J.D., and DeLisi, M. (2012). *Delinquency in Society*, 10<sup>th</sup> Ed. Jones & Bartlett.  
 (Other readings as assigned)

## Progress Report

Students may review their progress at any time by entering the “grades” feature in ELMS. By the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the semester, you will have an opportunity to evaluate your progress in this course and decide if you need to make any adjustments (additional study, tutoring, conference with instructor) to assure your success in this course.

## Assessment Method

Exams / Discussions / Paper / Homework	Point Value	Final Grade Scale
2 Exams (100 points each)	200 pts	A = 716-800 pts
Discussion Board (10 @ 20 pts. each week)	200 pts	B = 636-715 pts
Debate w/ Position Paper	200 pts	C = 556-635 pts
Homework (3) 200 pts total	200 pts.	D = 476-555 pts
Extra credit	Additional points	F = 475 pts and below
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>800</b>	

## Grade Distribution

A+: 97% and above	B-: 82% to 80%	D: 66% to 63%
A: 96% to 93%	C+: 79% to 77%	D-: 62% to 60%
A-: 92% to 90%	C: 76% to 73%	F: Less than 60%
B+: 89% to 87%	C-: 72% to 70%	
B: 86% to 83%	D+: 69% to 67%	

## Codes of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Students are required to uphold the Code of Academic Integrity and the Code of Student Conduct. Students who violate either of these codes may receive a failing grade in the class. Regarding assignments and exams, students should always observe the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Your academic work should be the result of your efforts, thoughts, and ideas. When writing papers or assignments, you should use an appropriate citation style consistently, indicating exactly where you are quoting, or have been inspired by, the work of others.

Cheating on any assignment or exam will result in the following disciplinary actions:

- (1) “XF” (a cheating F) will be the grade earned for the course, and (2) possible expulsion from the UMCP’s B.A. Program in Criminology & Criminal Justice at the Shady Grove Center, effective the following semester. All cases of academic misconduct will be referred to the Student Honor Council at UMCP.
- (2) Examples of conduct meriting such disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - (1) cheating on an exam, either with or without assistance of another student or students,
  - (2) submitting as your own work a paper that is either wholly or partially plagiarized, such as purchasing a paper from an internet site or superficially rewriting the work of others without proper citation, or
  - (3) collaborating with fellow students on assignments or take-home exams for which you were instructed to work alone.

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized *Code of Academic Integrity*. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of

the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the *Code of Academic Integrity* or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu>

**Papers and assignments are subject to an originality check via turnitin.com. I submit all papers to this site to verify original work.**

**All electronic devices (cell phones, etc.) must be turned off and put away. Laptops are permitted for note-taking purposes only. You cannot participate fully if you are engaged in other activities.**

Should a student need accommodations in the classroom or for assignments/exams due to a verified, documented learning or physical disability, please inform me of your situation immediately, so that proper UMCP documentation and accommodation procedures are followed. <http://www.counseling.umd.edu/dss/>

Link to University course policies: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

### **Participation, Attendance and Make-up Policy**

Students are expected to adhere to the class schedule, attend and participate in every class, come to class on time and remain in class until it is completed. **Class participation, to include discussion, group and individual class work, and respectful interaction between the instructor and students are emphasized in this course.**

If you are absent from class, you cannot participate; therefore, class should only be missed for serious illness, emergency, religious holidays, or participation in official college functions. Opportunities to make-up missed in-class work will only be given in cases of excused absences and **official documentation is required**. Exams and assignments are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them. Excused absences are: illness with a doctor's note, death in the immediate family, required school activities, and required court appearance. If a doctor will not write you a note, you will need to get a copy of your medical record from them to verify your illness. By law, you are entitled to get a copy of this and it is your responsibility to do so. I must be notified in person or by phone or email PRIOR to missing an in-class assignment for me to consider giving you a makeup. If you know you will not be in class for in-class work or a date an assignment is due for an excused reason it is your responsibility to turn in the work PRIOR to the due date.

What to do if you must seek to be excused from class: Contact me by email or phone at the contact number on this syllabus as soon as you know you will be unable to attend class. Excusal will be granted, at my discretion, and make up work and late assignments accepted in these emergency cases as contracted and documented in email between the student and instructor. In case of excused absence, students are responsible for requesting missed material from another student or the instructor.

**PER UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND POLICY FOR A STUDENT'S MEDICALLY NECESSITATED ABSENCE FROM CLASS, students shall now make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness prior to the class; and, upon returning to class, present their instructor with a self-signed note attesting to the date of their illness. Each note must also contain an acknowledgment by the student that the information provided is true and correct. Providing false information to University officials is prohibited under Part 9 (h) of the *Code of Student Conduct* (V-1.00(B) UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT) and may result in disciplinary action.**

[https://pdc-svpaap1.umd.edu/teach/attend\\_student.html](https://pdc-svpaap1.umd.edu/teach/attend_student.html)

## Lecture, Exams and Assignment Schedule

<u>Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
1/24	Intro / Defining Delinquency; Measuring Delinquency	Chapters 1 & 2	Online Discussion
1/31	Explaining Delinquency: Choice and Biological Theories	Chapter 3	Online Discussion
2/7	Explaining Delinquency: Sociological Theories	Chapter 5 & 6	Online Discussion
2/14	Explaining Delinquency: Psychological Theories	Chapter 4	Online Discussion <b><u>HOMEWORK #1 DUE</u></b>
2/21	Explaining Delinquency: Developmental Theories	Chapter 7	Online Discussion Exam Review
2/28	<b>Exam 1</b>	Chapters 1-7	
3/7	Environmental Influences: Family and Delinquency	Chapter 9	
3/14	Violence, Drug Use, and Delinquency	Chapter 11	<b>Debate #1 (Nature v. Nurture)</b> Online Discussion
3/21	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS		
3/28	Environmental Influences: Schools; Peer Group and Gang Delinquency <b>GANG PRESENTATION</b>	Chapter 10 & 12	Online Discussion <b><u>HOMEWORK #2 DUE</u></b>
4/4	Female Delinquency	Chapter 8	<b>Debate #2 (Police Officers in School)</b>
4/11	Juvenile Justice System	Chapter 13	Online Discussion <b>Debate #3 (Goals of Punishment)</b>
4/18	Juvenile Justice System	Chapter 13	Online Discussion
4/25	Delinquency Prevention	Chapter 14	Online Discussion

5/2	DEBATES 4 & 5		Debate #4 (Maryland Juvenile Transfer Laws) Debate #5 (Life in Prison)
5/9	FINAL EXAM GIVEN (TAKE HOME)		<u>HOMework #3 DUE</u>
5/16	FINAL EXAM DUE		

**\*\* Discussion Board and Participation Policy \*\***

Class participation, to include participation in the discussion board, individual class work, and respectful interaction between the instructor and students are emphasized in this course.

**Participation:** The class participation for this course is designed within the framework of online classes and class lectures, and is intended to support the learning process. Being active and involved in the conferences is considered your “Discussion” grade in this course, and students are expected to participate fully in all course activities. To complete this course successfully you do NOT have to be online at a particular day or time. However, the course follows a weekly schedule. Students are expected to complete all the work assigned for a particular week and to observe all deadlines throughout the semester. In case of illness, emergency, religious holidays, or participation in official college functions, students remain responsible for completing the requirements of the course. ***Late assignments will not be accepted unless approved by the instructor ahead of time. Home computer problems will not result in a deadline extension.***

**Discussion Board:** I will label the discussion “Week 1, 2, etc.” This will make it easier for you to track the discussions. Each week will begin on Monday (I will have it online by Monday at 5 p.m. and close on the following Sunday by midnight (EST). That means you have seven (7) days to complete your discussion board work. I will post a question/topic on the discussion board each week. The discussion board is set up to be a “reflection loop.” In other words, you will need to respond to my initial question/topic (post) on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of each week; this posting is worth a maximum of ten (10) points. You will then need to respond to at least two of your classmates’ posts between Thursday and Sunday. Early posts create more discussion, so I do encourage posting early in the week. These postings are worth a maximum of five (5) points each. Thus, you could earn a maximum of 20 points per week by participating on the discussion board. We will use the discussion board for most weeks (with the exception of the test weeks) of this class and/or if there is a change that I will announce during class or via email. Maximum points for the discussion board are 200 (10 pts. for each post to the initial question; 5 pts. for each of the two postings to your classmates’ posts; for a maximum total of 20 points per week), and there will be a total of 10 discussions.

Your responses should be in paragraph format and although the conferences are somewhat informal, spelling and grammar are still important. “I agree” will not count as a post. Below is the grading rubric for the discussion board. **NOTE:** You will only be able to post for the current week. If you forget to post the previous week, then you lose your opportunity to earn any points for that week. (You can post as many times as you like each week. The more you post, the more you participate, and the higher your grade will be). **The discussion board will close by Sunday at midnight (EST).**

*Netiquette:* You will be communicating with one another via the discussion board. It is likely that you will not always agree with the opinions of your fellow classmates. Disagreement is fine but you will need to respect

others' views. Thus, personal attacks and derogatory comments will not be tolerated. If, however, you do disagree with someone, then I expect you to state your position in an articulate fashion on the discussion board.

**Grading Rubric:**

0 Points	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
Does not respond to postings; does not participate freely. No effort to participate in learning community as it develops. Didn't post in each required topic for each week.	Does not respond to most postings. Does not make effort to participate in learning community as it develops; seems indifferent. Comments or questions were not responsive to the discussion questions.	Occasionally makes meaningful reflection on group's efforts; marginal effort to become involved with group. Comments or questions provided some evidence that the participant had read the course material.	Frequently attempts to direct the discussion and present relevant viewpoints for consideration by group; interacts freely. Comments or questions enhanced the quality of discussion (i.e., suggested new perspectives on an issue, asked questions that helped stimulate further discussion, etc.)	Consistently responds to posting; demonstrates good self-initiative. Frequently attempts to motivate the group discussion; presents creative approaches to topic. Participant posted a significant response in the form of comments and/or questions to all required conference topics posted for that week.	Exceeds all expectations when responding to posts.

**Homework Assignments:** There are **three** homework assignments. You must submit the assignment on the due dates. **There will be no exceptions.**

**Homework Assignment #1 (50 points)**

**Deterrence and the Young Brain -- The Age of Culpability argument is founded on the principle that a child's brain does not develop to maturity until later in the teenage years all the way up to the age of 25. The legal argument is that children under the age of 18 are less "culpable" than those that are over the age of 18. Research on adolescent brain development does not provide an excuse for culpability, but it shows that youth are amenable to treatment in ways that adults are not.**

The philosophy of deterrence depends on the individual's ability to make a rational choice. Ideally, a person who breaks the law and who is judged to be irrational, usually because of mental illness or intellectual disability, isn't given a typical criminal sentence. But what about a class of people unable to make rational choices? How would deterrence work, then?

Many medical experts and criminological scholars are now questioning the assumption that juveniles are able to make rational decisions. Such developments cast doubt on the role of deterrence-based treatment of juvenile delinquents.

Address the following in your assignment:

1. Begin with a cover sheet indicating your name, project title, course, and date submitted.
2. Select a state and provide the information about its 'Age of Culpability' rules (what is the age of criminal responsibility/culpability in this state?)
3. Should juveniles be considered less responsible for their actions because of their neurological condition?
4. "Create" a juvenile delinquency program based on deterrence that takes into account the limitations of the juvenile brain. Why would it work? Why not?
5. If you use outside sources or the text, you must document them. The bibliography or documentation of the outside sources does not count in the page total requirement.

Papers must be typed, double-spaced, and a minimum of three (3) pages.

### **Homework Assignment #2 (50 points)**

#### **THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AS ENTERTAINMENT CRITIQUE**

There are many programs that showcase the criminal justice system on cable TV. As opposed to *Law and Order*, *CSI*, *How to get Away with Murder* and the like, these programs purport to be fact-based.

For this assignment, you may choose any segment from the following television programs or Netflix/Hulu/Amazon Prime series. Note: The following are examples: *Making a Murderer*; *Cold Justice*; *Girls Incarcerated*; *Unbelievable*; *When They See Us*; *Mindhunter*

***(If a student finds another program that meets the criteria, simply email the instructor for permission to use that specific program.)***

#### **Critique Requirements and Formatting**

Papers must be a minimum of three (3), double-spaced, typed pages, and must include the following:

1. Cover page with your name, project title, course and date of submission.
2. Section 1: Introduction, purpose, brief synopsis of each episode or program selected.
3. Section 2: Which area(s) of the criminal justice system (police, courts, corrections) is highlighted? How is this segment(s) of the system portrayed? How is the "juvenile/criminal" portrayed (if applicable)? Which theory would explain the criminal behavior (if applicable)? How is the "victim" portrayed (if applicable)? How is the victim treated by the system (if applicable)? Does the victim receive justice (if applicable)?
4. Conclusion: What message do you feel the public receives about the criminal justice system as a result of watching these programs? What do you feel is the value of these shows in either making the public more aware of crime and justice in American or de-sensitizing them to the seriousness of crime in America?
5. Reference page – If you don't use any outside sources or the text, both of which I encourage you to incorporate into your paper, you must still list the show itself as a reference.

## **Homework Assignment #3 (100 points)**

### **COURTROOM OBSERVATION**

To truly understand how the court system works with respect to Juvenile Delinquency, each student should observe a Juvenile Delinquency Docket.

For this assignment, each student is required to attend a Juvenile Delinquency Docket in Montgomery County, Maryland. As an Assistant State's Attorney, I will help facilitate you in the courtroom. In observing a docket, you will be able to also observe the Sheriff's, meet DJS personnel, and attorneys. The best days to attend Court are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. There are dockets in the morning and the afternoon. Each student will meet with me and I will let you know which days have a lot to observe so that each student can get a true feel for the Juvenile Court process.

### **Critique Requirements and Formatting**

Papers must be a minimum of three (3), double-spaced, typed pages, and must include the following:

1. Cover page with your name, project title, course and date of submission.
2. Section 1: Introduction, purpose, brief synopsis of each case observed.
3. Section 2: Which areas of the criminal justice system (police, courts, corrections) did you observe while you were in Court? What is your observation as to Juvenile Court process? How did the sheriffs interact with the juveniles? What is the role and interaction of DJS? What did you observe with respect to the State's Attorney's and the defense attorneys? What did you observe with respect to the juvenile's family and their role in this process?
4. Conclusion: Does this experience change or enhance your views regarding nature v. nurture? How did this experience affect you and your thoughts about Juvenile Delinquency?

All Students have access to the UMD online databases via [www.lib.umd.edu](http://www.lib.umd.edu) and will be expected to use it. This course will also incorporate the use of empirical literature.