



# Crossover Youth: Addressing the Needs of Children in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems

FALL 2026

## REQUIRED READINGS

Instructor: Louis Morlier

Contact Info: [lh14@umd.edu](mailto:lh14@umd.edu)

Office Hours: By appointment

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 12:30pm to 1:45pm

Classroom: Building III Room 2211

\*ELMS—All readings will be available on ELMS for the appropriate week of the course.

Course description: The course will address risk factors (social, emotional, academic, economic, gender, age, family formation) that increase a youth's likelihood to enter the juvenile justice system and child welfare systems; why youth cross over between those systems; and what practices are being implemented to prevent or contribute to youth crossover between systems. The roles of law enforcement, courts, social services, behavioral health, community-based organizations, employers, parents and youth themselves will be explored.

## Course Objectives

1. Discuss crossover youth in historical, legal, economic, political and social contexts.
2. Identify the scope of the problem and causes of multi-system involvement.
3. Examine the roles of government systems, providers, parents, and youth in unfavorable outcomes.
4. Compile strategies that have led to positive outcomes in different parts of the country.

## Course Requirements and Evaluation

This is a blended (hybrid) class. Part of your participation and learning will be online readings, discussion, and assignments. We will also use multimedia to expand some concepts. Students will be expected to attend all in-person class sessions and actively participate. There are several requirements that must be fulfilled to be successful in this course:

**Reading Assignments** Each student is responsible for reading assignments as outlined below as well as other readings posted on the ELMS website. All students should be fully prepared to participate in classroom discussions.

**Participation:** Active participation in class is expected of each student. Your participation grade will also be evaluated by collection of in-class group activities and online activities and discussions. Absent students will not be permitted to make up in-class assignments without documentation for an excused absence.

**Assessments:** Students will complete two online assessments as part of this course. These assessments will be completed individually by students online at the designated times. Students are expected to comply with all school policies regarding academic integrity in completing these assessments.

**Communication Fellows Program:** This course will be participating in Communication Fellows Program. The USG Macklin Center for Leadership and Communication partners with USG academic programs through the Communication Fellows Program. Students who have completed the targeted class are recommended by their program directors to apply to support peers in a communication-intensive class. Fellows are trained and supervised throughout the semester by the Macklin coordinator. Fellows meet twice during the semester with their assigned students to discuss the assignments. Students will be matched with an appropriate fellow by providing specific information about their academic needs and availability.

Students will complete two assignments during the course as part of the Fellows Program. Students should view this process as an additional resource to help them complete assignments which are a large percentage of the course grade. Students will be assigned a fellow at the beginning of the course and will meet with the fellow throughout the course. Students will be able to access the assigned fellow through email for questions about the process.

**Group State Initiative Presentations (Part of Class Participation):** Students will work in pre-assigned groups to produce an in-depth presentation on an initiative in the country to mitigate youth cross over. Specifically identify: policies put in place, how information was shared, and any training provided to workers with the child welfare, court or juvenile justice system. Additionally, students will be asked to identify the cost socially and economically of cross over youth and the projected cost to our community financially and socially of doing nothing. Groups will present their reports, enabling the entire class to become familiar with initiatives across the county. Each group will be required to submit a written presentation.

## Course Grades

Points shall be awarded as follows:

|                                             |      |
|---------------------------------------------|------|
| Quiz One                                    | 20%  |
| Quiz Two                                    | 20%  |
| Participation (Includes Group Presentation) | 20%  |
| Fellows Papers                              | 40%  |
| TOTAL:                                      | 100% |

## Grade Distribution

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

## Course Policies

### Attendance and Make-Up Policy

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 new 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 the 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 by e-mail 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.

### Grade Disputes

All grades will be posted on ELMS. If you have any concerns or issues regarding a grade and would like to discuss it with me or have it reviewed, please contact me **within 48 hours of receiving the grade**. I will not discuss grade disputes after this time.

Life happens and sometimes for various reasons material can be challenging. Should you feel overwhelmed or frustrated and are worried that your grades are suffering, please see me. It is better to tackle the problem at the earliest possible moment and find a solution that will most benefit you.

### Classroom Code of Conduct

The success of this class is dependent not only on my abilities and talents as an instructor to communicate information and ideas, but also on our ability as a class to work together to create an environment conducive to active learning. As a department and university, we expect the faculty and students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in the classroom activities. Unfortunately, disruptive behaviors in the classroom cheat other students of opportunities to learn. The University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruption as "behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of a class." Examples include coming late to class, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization, excessive talking, persisting in speaking without being recognized, allowing cellphones to ring, talking on a cellphone and receiving and sending text messages. None of this behavior will be tolerated. Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants or with me will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

### Use of Technology

In this class, students will be allowed to use their personal computers and tablets to take class notes. This policy may change should students use their laptops and tablets in an inappropriate or distracting manner. Students will be prohibited from using their mp3 players, cell phones or any other type of technology during class.

### Absences due to Religious Observances

Students are expected to notify me within the first two weeks of class if they intend to be absent for a class or announced examination due to a religious observance. Reasonable opportunities to make-up any work missed will be provided.

### Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services (DSS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Students who intend to receive accommodations during the semester, should provide me with a letter from DSS within the first two weeks of class. Further, you need to remind me of accommodation requests at least five business days prior to needing the accommodation.

### Academic Dishonesty

Academic Dishonesty of any form will absolutely NOT be tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses the traditional behavior such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc., but also includes activities such as possessing and/or reviewing previous semester's exams and computer assignments. Additionally, students will be asked to write the University approved Honor Pledge on each exam and project. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. 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.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>

### Copyright Notice

*Legally, course materials such as written or recorded lectures and Power Point presentations are copyright protected and the ability to copy and distribute course materials unless it is for personal use and with instructor's permission is **illegal**.*

The lectures that I provide and course materials I create are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes and use course materials but please do not record my lectures, reproduce or distribute notes of lectures or my materials or make any commercial use of them without my express consent. I will provide "shells" of my lectures so you may take notes and fill in gaps during our sessions together. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

### Inclement Weather

Official closures and delays are announced on the campus website at <http://www.shadygrove.umd.edu> and snow phone line (301-738-6000) as well as local radio and TV stations. **USG follows its own closure schedule, not that of College Park.**

Should class be cancelled due to inclement weather, the instructor will communicate via email any changes to the course schedule and deadlines.

### Additional University Policies

Additional important university policies are available here for your review:

<https://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

If you have questions upon reviewing these policies, please reach out to me in class or email me [lh14@umd.edu](mailto:lh14@umd.edu).

### Course Evaluation

Your feedback about this course is very important to me. One important campus-wide evaluation is the online evaluation at the end of the semester. Students can go directly to the website ([www.courseevalum.umd.edu](http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu)) to complete their evaluations.

### Lecture, Exam and Assignment Schedule

| <b><u>Lecture Date</u></b> | <b><u>Topic</u></b>                                      | <b><u>Readings, Activities, and Due Dates</u></b> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 9/1                        | Course Introduction and exploration of terms             | Readings available on ELMS                        |
| 9/8                        | Child Abuse and Developmental Trauma                     | Readings available on ELMS                        |
| 9/15                       | Introduction to the Child Welfare System                 | Readings available on ELMS                        |
| 9/22                       | Introduction to the Juvenile Justice System              | Readings available on ELMS                        |
| 9/29                       |                                                          | Assessment (Online)                               |
| 10/6                       | Institutional Betrayal Theory                            | Readings available on ELMS                        |
| 10/13                      | Fall Break, No Class                                     | First Fellows Paper Due                           |
| 10/20                      | Role of Community Programs in Prevention Crossover Youth | Readings available on ELMS                        |
| 10/27                      | Crossover Youth Practice Model Part I                    | Readings available on ELMS                        |
| 11/3                       |                                                          | Assessment (Online)                               |
| 11/10                      | Crossover Youth Practice Model Part II                   | Readings available on ELMS                        |
| 11/17                      | Crossover Youth Practice Model Part III                  | Readings available on ELMS                        |
| 11/24                      |                                                          | Group Presentations                               |
| 12/1                       | TBA                                                      |                                                   |
| 12/8                       | Course Wrap Up                                           | Second Fellows Paper Due                          |