

**University of Maryland**  
**Dept. of Criminology & Criminal Justice**  
**Spring 2019**

**CCJS 699J: Groups and Crime**

**Class Time:** Tuesday 3-5:45pm

**Professor:** Jean M. McGloin

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 10am-12pm or by appointment

**Phone:** 301-405-3007

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**Office:** 2155 LeFrak Hall

**Grading Schema:**

- Final Paper: 35%
- Paper Outline and Annotated Bibliography: 10%
- Paper Presentation: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Class Participation: 20%

**Final Paper:** The final paper will be a research proposal. Specifically, it will contain a literature review that identifies a testable research question that will contribute to the literature on groups and crime. It will also identify a data set to which the student has access (identified through ICPSR, for example) that can be used to test this research question. Students will be expected to justify their selected measures and analytic plan. In total, the paper should be 20-25 pages in length and be written in APA format. I will review *complete* rough drafts of the papers up until November 21st.

**Paper Outline and Annotated Bibliography:** With the aim of ensuring an “early start” on a paper that is on the correct pathway, all students must submit an outline of the proposed paper, as well as a working bibliography with at least 5 annotated sources (which are not on the course reading list). The annotations should be two paragraphs for each citation. The first should be an abstract of the source, while the second should explain the purpose of including this source in your paper.

**Paper Presentation:** The end of the semester provides an opportunity for all students to share their research. The presentation should be in Power Point format and be approximately 20 minutes in length. More specific guidelines will be provided.

**Midterm Exam:** This will be an in-class exam that will test you on some core themes covered in the course up until that point.

**Class Participation:** Because this class operates as a seminar, participation is vital. Students are expected to share their perspectives on the readings in a manner that illustrates critical thinking.

### **Class Policies:**

- **Attendance:** On May 10, 2011, the Campus Senate amended the University of Maryland Policy for A Student's Medically Necessitated Absence from Class V-100 (G). Under this new policy, instructors are expected to accept as an excused absence a self-signed note from a student who has missed a single lecture, recitation, or laboratory, attesting to the date of the illness. This note must also contain an acknowledgement by the student that the information is true and correct and that providing false information is prohibited under the Code of Student Conduct. The student is also obligated to make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness in advance. A student is allowed only ONE self-signed note per class for the semester, but this DOES NOT apply to days of major grading events (the day of the midterm and your presentation). Please note that multiple unexcused absences will affect your participation grade.
- **Missed Deadlines/Late Assignments:** Extensions for papers or presentations will not be given except in cases of a medical or family emergency. Accompanying written documentation is required. If a *completed* assignment is late without my prior approval, it will lose one letter grade for every day that is past the due date.
- **Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form and any violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication of information used in assignments, plagiarism, and knowingly facilitating the academic dishonesty of another.

### **Class schedule**

- **January 29: Introductory Class**

#### Reading:

Warr, Mark. (2002). *Companions in Crime: The Social Aspects of Criminal Conduct*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

- **February 5: Mechanisms of Peer Influence I**

#### Reading:

Akers, R. L. (1998) *Social Learning and Social Structure: A General Theory of Crime and Deviance*. Pages 47-89.

Pratt, T. C., Cullen, F. C., Sellers, C. S., Winfree, T., Madensen, T. D., Daigle, L. E., Fearn, N. E., & Gau. J. M. (2010). The Empirical Status of Social Learning Theory. *Justice Quarterly*, 27: 765-802.

Heimer, K. & Matsueda, R. (1994). Role-taking, role commitment, and delinquency: A theory of differential social control. *American Sociological Review*, 59: 365-390.

- **February 12:** *Mechanisms of Peer Influence II*

Reading:

McGloin, J. M. (2009). Delinquency balance: Revisiting peer influence. *Criminology*, 47:439-478.

Osgood, D. W, Wilson, J. K., O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. M., & Johnston, L. D. (1996). Routine activities and individual deviant behavior. *American Sociological Review* 61:635-655.

McGloin, J.M. & Rowan, Z. (2015). A threshold model of collective crime. *Criminology*, 53: 484-512.

- **February 19:** *The Question of Causality*

**\*\*\*PAPER OUTLINE AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS\*\*\***

Reading:

Thornberry, T. (1987) Toward an interactional theory of delinquency. *Criminology*, 25: 863-892.

Duncan, G J., Boisjoly, J., Kremer, M., Levy, D., & Eccles, J. (2005). Peer effects among drug use and sex among college students. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology* 33: 375-385.

MacCoun, R, Cook, P., Muschkin, C., & Vigdor, J. (2008). Distinguishing spurious and real peer effects: Evidence from artificial societies, small-group experiments, and real schoolyards. *Review of Law and Economics* 4:695-714.

Paternoster, R., McGloin, J.M., Nguyen, H., & Thomas, K.J. (2013). The causal impact of exposure to deviant peers: An experimental investigation. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 50: 476-503.

Bayer, P., Hjalmarsson, R., & Pozen, D. (2009). Building criminal capital behind bars: Peer effects in juvenile corrections. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 124: 105-147.

- **February 26:** *Measuring Peer Influence*

Readings:

Haynie, D. L. (2002). Friendship networks and adolescent delinquency: The relative nature of peer delinquency. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 18: 99–134.

Warr, M., & Stafford, M. C. (1991). The influence of delinquent peers: What they think or what they do. *Criminology* 29:851–65.

Young, J. T., Barnes, J. C., Meldrum, R. C., & Weerman, F. (2011). Assessing and explaining misperceptions of peer delinquency. *Criminology*, 49: 599-630.

McGloin, Jean Marie and Kyle Thomas. Considering the elements that inform perceived peer deviance. Forthcoming in the *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*.

- **March 5: Sources of Peer Influence**

Reading:

Payne, D. C. & Cornwell, B. (2007). Reconsidering Peer Influences on Delinquency: Do Less Proximate Contacts Matter? *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 23:127-49

43:177-210.

Kreager, Derek A. and Dana L. Haynie. 2011. Dangerous Liaisons? Dating and Drinking Diffusion in Adolescent Peer Networks. *American Sociological Review* 76: 737-763.

Conway, K. P., & McCord, J. (2002). A longitudinal examination of the relation between co-offending with violent accomplices and violent crime. *Aggressive Behavior*, 28:97–108.

Weerman, F. M., & Smeenk, W. H. (2005). Peer similarity in delinquency for different types of friends: A comparison using two measurement methods. *Criminology*, 43:499–523.

- **March 12: Can Peer Networks Explain Other Observed Phenomena?**

Readings:

Giordano, P. C., Cernkovich, S. A. & Holland, D. (2003). Changes in friendship over the life course: Implications for desistance from crime. *Criminology*, 41:293–327

Warr, M. (1998). Life transitions and desistence from crime. *Criminology*

36:183–216.

Warr, M. (1993). Age, peers, and delinquency. *Criminology*, 31: 17-40.

Wright, J. Paul & Cullen, F. T. (2004). Employment, Peers and Life-Course Transitions. *Justice Quarterly*, 21:183–205.

- **March 19: No class/Spring Break**
- **March 26: *Differential Network Roles and Structures***

Readings:

Haynie, D. L. (2001). Delinquent peers revisited: Does network structure matter? *American Journal of Sociology*, 106: 1013–57

Morselli, C., Tremblay, P. & McCarthy, B. (2006). Mentors and criminal achievement. *Criminology*, 44: 17-43.

McGloin, J.M. & Piquero, A.R. (2010). On the relationship between co-offending network redundancy and offending versatility. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 47: 63-90.

Malm, A., & Bichler, G. (2011). Networks of Collaborating Criminals: Assessing the Structural Vulnerability of Drug Markets. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 48: 271-297.

- **April 2: MIDTERM**
- **April 9: *Gender and Peer Networks***

Readings:

Augustyn, M.B., & McGloin, J.M. 2013. The risk of informal socializing with peers: Considering gender differences across predatory delinquency and substance use. *Justice Quarterly*, 30: 117-143.

McCarthy, B., Felmlee, D. & Hagan, J. (2004). Girl friends are better: Gender, friends, and crime among school and street youth. *Criminology*, 42: 804-835.

Haynie, D. L., Steffensmeier, D., & Bell, K. E. (2007). Gender and serious violence: Untangling the role of friendship sex composition and peer violence. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice* 5: 235–253.

Faris, Robert & Diane Felmlee. (2011). Status Struggles: Network Centrality and Gender Segregation in Same- and Cross-Gender Aggression. *American Sociological Review* 76: 48-73.

- **April 16:** *Peer Networks and Context*

Readings:

Rees, C & Pogarsky, G. (2011). One bad apple may not spoil the whole bunch: Best friends and adolescent delinquency. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 27: 197-223.

Zimmerman, G. & Messner, S. (2011). Neighborhood context and nonlinear peer effects on adolescent violent crime. *Criminology*, 49: 873-903.

Thomas, K. & McGloin, J.M. (2013). A Dual-Systems Approach for Understanding Differential Susceptibility to Processes of Peer Influence. *Criminology*, 51: 435-474.

Dipietro, S. M., & McGloin, J.M. (2012). Differential susceptibility? Immigrant youth and peer influence. *Criminology*, 50(3), 711-742

- **April 23:** *Street Gangs as Networks*

Readings:

Short, J. F. & Strodtbeck, F. L. (1965). *Group Process and Delinquency*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- **April 30:** *Programs, Policies and Interventions*

Readings:

Dishion, T.J. & McCord, J. (1999). When interventions harm: Peer groups and problem behavior. *American Psychologist*, 54: 755-764.

Klein, M. (1969). Gang cohesiveness, delinquency and a street work program. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 6 (1): 135-166.

Gest, S.G., Osgood, D.W, Bierman, K.L., & Moody, J. (2011). Strengthening Prevention Program Theories and Evaluations: Contributions from Social Network Analysis. *Prevention Science* 12(4): 349-360.

Osgood, D. W., Feinberg, M. E., Gest, S. D., Moody, J., Ragan, D. T., Spoth, R., Greenberg, M., & Redmond, C. (2013). Effects of PROSPER on the influence potential of prosocial versus antisocial youth in adolescent friendship networks. *Journal of Adolescent Health* 53: 174-179.

- **May 7 & 14:** *Student Presentations*

**\*\*\*FINAL PAPERS DUE BY 3pm ON 5/21.** *Papers will be considered late after 3pm.*