

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CCJS 661 Crime and the Life Course

Professor John H. Laub
Spring 2019

Course Synopsis:

This seminar is designed to provide an intensive examination of crime and the life course. The life course will be examined as a theoretical orientation, a research methodology, and as an empirical field of study with special reference to crime and deviance. Key conceptual and research issues will be analyzed and discussed including the development of criminal and deviant behavior and criminal/deviant careers; stability and change in criminal/deviant behavior across developmental stages of the life course; trajectories, transitions, and turning points through life; quantitative and qualitative approaches to studying crime and the life course; and social change and its link to individual lives.

A single semester course can only provide a sampling of the range of theoretical and empirical work on crime and the life course. The most important objective is thus to acquire a new way of thinking that can serve as a potential point of departure for your future research and intellectual development. To accomplish this goal, I have selected a wide-range of readings that bear on multiple aspects of life-course inquiry, both quantitative and qualitative in nature.

Required Readings:

- (1) Glen H. Elder, Jr. and Janet Z. Giele, editors (2009). The Craft of Life Course Research. New York: The Guilford Press.
- (2) Clifford Shaw (1930). The Jack-Roller: A Delinquent Boy's Own Story. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Revised Edition, 1966.
- (3) Alex Piquero, David Farrington, and Alfred Blumstein (2007). Key Issues in Criminal Career Research: New Analyses of the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- (4) Robert J. Sampson and John H. Laub (1993). Crime in the Making: Pathways and Turning Points Through Life. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- (5) Peggy C. Giordano (2010). Legacies of Crime: A Follow-up of the Children of Highly Delinquent Girls and Boys. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- (6) Jamie J. Fader (2013). Falling Back: Incarceration and Transitions to Adulthood among Urban Youth. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- (7) Sara Wakefield and Christopher Wildeman (2013). Children of the Prison Boom: Mass Incarceration and the Future of American Inequality. New York: Oxford University Press.

- (8) John H. Laub and Robert J. Sampson (2003). Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives: Delinquent Boys to Age 70. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- (9) Christopher J. Sullivan and Alex R. Piquero, Guest Editors (2016). "Special Issue: Criminal Careers and Career Criminals Report, 30th Anniversary." Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Volume 53, Number 3, May 2016. (Available online.)
- (10) Additional readings are available online, at McKeldin Library, or, if necessary, they will be distributed in class. All articles/book chapters noted with an "R" are required reading. Note the assigned articles that are contained in the required edited book are indicated with an "R*" for Elder and Giele. The notation R** is for the remaining required books listed above.

Course Requirements:

- (1) A paper of 20 to 25 typed pages is due by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. This paper will account for 40% of your final grade. More information on this assignment will be provided in class.
- (2) A "take home" final examination will be due at the start of class on Tuesday, May 21, 2019). This exam will account for 40% of your final grade. More information on this examination will be provided in class.
- (3) This class is organized as a seminar. It is my expectation that you will come to each and every class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. In this type of class, I see class participation as an important component of a successful seminar. To facilitate dialogue and interpretation, students will be selected to act as "seminar discussion leaders" of the assigned reading material for a particular class. Class participation will account for the remaining 20% of your final grade. You will be graded on the quality of your presentation as seminar discussion leader and the quality of your participation in class discussions throughout the semester. More information on this assignment will be provided in class.

Office Hours and Class Meeting Times:

My office is located in 2135 LeFrak Hall. During the Spring semester, I will be holding office hours from 10:00 to 12:00 on Mondays and 10:00 to 12:00 on Tuesdays. All other meeting times will be by appointment only. For your information, my office phone number is 301-405-8070 and my e-mail address is jlaub@umd.edu.

This class meets Tuesday, 4:00 to 6:45, in KEY 0125.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student with a documented disability who wishes to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me by February 12, 2019.

Course Outline:

1/29

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF COURSE

2/5

THE LIFE COURSE PARADIGM

A. General Issues

- R Elder, Glen H., Jr. (1994). "Time, Human Agency, and Social Change: Perspectives on the Life Course." Social Psychology Quarterly 57:4-15.
- R Elder, Glen H., Jr. (1998). "The Life Course as Developmental Theory." Child Development 69:1-12.
- R* Elder, Glen H., Jr. and Janet Z. Giele (2009). "Life Course Studies: An Evolving Field." Pp. 1-24 in The Craft of Life Course Research, edited by Glen H. Elder, Jr. and Janet Z. Giele. New York: The Guilford Press.

B. Studying Lives in a Changing Society

- R Ryder, Norman B. (1965). "The Cohort as a Concept in the Study of Social Change." American Sociological Review 30:843-861.
- R Shanahan, Michael J. (2000). "Pathways to Adulthood in Changing Societies: Variability and Mechanisms in Life Course Perspective." Annual Review of Sociology 26:667-692.

C. "Ontogenetic" vs. "Sociogenic" Models of Development

- R Dannefer, Dale (1984). "Adult Development and Social Theory: A Paradigmatic Reappraisal." American Sociological Review 49:100-116.
- R Baltes, Paul and John Nesselroade (1984). "Paradigm Lost and Paradigm Regained: Critique of Dannefer's Portrayal of Life-Span Developmental Psychology." American Sociological Review 49:841-847.
- R Dannefer, Dale (1984). "The Role of the Social in Life-Span Developmental Psychology, Past and Future: Rejoinder to Baltes and Nesselroade." American Sociological Review 49:847-850.

2/12

RESEARCH METHODS AND ANALYTICAL APPROACHES

- R* Parts One and Two in Elder and Giele, editors, The Craft of Life Course Research.
- R** Becker, Howard (1966). "Introduction." Pp. v-xviii in The Jack-Roller: A Delinquent Boy's Own Story by Clifford R. Shaw. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- R John H. Laub and Robert J. Sampson (2004). "Strategies for Bridging the Quantitative and Qualitative Divide: Studying Crime Over the Life Course." Research in Human Development, 1: 81-99.

EMPIRICAL AND THEORETICAL APPLICATIONS OF LIFE COURSE RESEARCH TO CRIME AND DEVIANCE

The books and articles listed below include both classic studies as well as more recent analyses of crime and deviance over the life course. These works introduce many important themes relating to the study of crime and the life course.

2/19

- R** Shaw, Clifford (1930). The Jack-Roller: A Delinquent Boy's Own Story.

2/26, 3/5

Overview of Criminal Career, Developmental, and Life-Course Approaches

A. Criminal Career Approaches

- R Hirschi, Travis and Michael R. Gottfredson (1983). "Age and the Explanation of Crime." American Journal of Sociology 89:552-584.
- R Steffensmeier, Darrell, Hua Zhong, and Yummei Lu (2017). "Age and Its Relation to Crime in Taiwan and the United States: Invariant, or Does Cultural Context Matter?" Criminology 55: 377-404.
- R Blumstein, Alfred, Jacqueline Cohen, Jeffrey Roth, and Christy Visser (1986). "Introduction: Studying Criminal Careers." Pp. 13-20 in Criminal Careers and "Career Criminals", Volume 1, edited by Alfred Blumstein, Jacqueline Cohen, Jeffrey Roth, and Christy Visser. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.
- R** Piquero, Alex, David Farrington, and Alfred Blumstein (2007). Key Issues in Criminal Career Research: New Analyses of the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development.

B. Developmental and Life-Course Approaches

- R** Sampson, Robert J. and John H. Laub (1993). Crime in the Making: Pathways and Turning Points Through Life. (Chapters 1-3)
- R Sampson, Robert J. and John H. Laub (1992). "Crime and Deviance in the Life Course." Annual Review of Sociology 18:63-84.
- R Moffitt, Terrie E. (1993). "Adolescence-Limited and Life-Course Persistent Antisocial Behavior: A Developmental Taxonomy." Psychological Review 100:674-701.

R Nagin, Daniel S., David P. Farrington, and Terrie E. Moffitt (1995). "Life Course Trajectories of Different Types of Offenders." Criminology 33:111-139.

R Farrington, David P. (2003). "Developmental and Life-Course Criminology: Key Theoretical and Empirical Issues – The 2002 Sutherland Award Address." Criminology 41:221-255.

3/12, 3/26 (Note: 3/19 is Spring Break)

Continuity and Change in Crime over the Life Course

R** Sampson, Robert J. and John H. Laub (1993). Crime in the Making: Pathways and Turning Points Through Life. (Chapters 4-10).

R Sampson, Robert J. and John H. Laub (1997). "A Life-Course Theory of Cumulative Disadvantage and the Stability of Delinquency." Pp. 133-161 in Developmental Theories of Crime and Delinquency: Advances in Criminological Theory (Volume 7), edited by Terence P. Thornberry. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

R Laub, John H., Daniel S. Nagin, and Robert J. Sampson (1998). "Trajectories of Change in Criminal Offending: Good Marriages and the Desistance Process." American Sociological Review 63:225-238.

R Horney, Julie, D. Wayne Osgood, and Ineke Haen Marshall (1995). "Criminal Careers in the Short-Term: Intra-individual Variability in Crime and Its Relation to Local Life Circumstances." American Sociological Review 60:655-673.

R Warr, Mark (1998). "Life-Course Transitions and Desistance from Crime." Criminology 36:183-216.

R Uggen, Christopher (2000). "Work as a Turning Point in The Life Course of Criminals: A Duration Model of Age, Employment, and Recidivism." American Sociological Review 65:529-546.

R Nagin, Daniel and Raymond Paternoster (2000). "Population Heterogeneity and State Dependence: State of the Evidence and Directions for Future Research" Journal of Quantitative Criminology 16:117-144.

R Giordano, Peggy C., Stephen A. Cernkovich, and Jennifer L. Rudolph (2002). "Gender, Crime, and Desistance: Toward a Theory of Cognitive Transformation." American Journal of Sociology 107:990-1064.

R Paternoster, Ray and Shawn Bushway (2009). "Desistance and The 'Feared Self': Toward an Identity Theory of Criminal Desistance." Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology 99:1103-1156.

R Kirk, David S. (2012). "Residential Change as a Turning Point in the Life Course of Crime: Desistance or Temporary Cessation?" Criminology 50: 329-358.

R Bersani, Bianca E. and Elaine Eggleston Doherty (2013). "When the Ties that Bind Unwind: Examining the Enduring and Situational Processes of Change Behind the Marriage Effect." Criminology 51: 399-433.

4/2

Intergenerational Transmission of Crime

R** Giordano, Peggy C. (2010). Legacies of Crime: A Follow-up of the Children of Highly Delinquent Girls and Boys.

4/9

Race and the Transition to Young Adulthood

R** Jamie J. Fader (2013). Falling Back: Incarceration and Transitions to Adulthood among Urban Youth. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

4/16

Growing Up in the Era of Mass Incarceration

R** Sara Wakefield and Christopher Wildeman (2013). Children of the Prison Boom: Mass Incarceration and the Future of American Inequality. New York: Oxford University Press.

4/23, 4/30 (Note: Papers are due at 4:00 on 4/23)

Continuity and Change in Crime over the Full Life Course

R** Laub, John H. and Robert J. Sampson (2003). Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives: Delinquent Boys to Age 70.

R Robert J. Sampson and John H. Laub (2003). "Life-Course Desisters? Trajectories of Crime Among Delinquent Boys Followed to Age 70." Criminology 41:555-592.

R Sampson, Robert J., John H. Laub, and Christopher Wimer (2006). "Does Marriage Reduce Crime? A Counterfactual Approach to Within-individual Causal Effects." Criminology 44: 465-508.

5/7, 5/14

The Future of Criminal Careers/Life Course/Developmental Criminology

R** Christopher J. Sullivan and Alex R. Piquero, Guest Editors (2016). "Special Issue: Criminal Careers and Career Criminals Report, 30th Anniversary." Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Volume 53, Number 3, May 2016. (Available online.)

R Bersani, Bianca E. and Elaine Eggleston Doherty (2018). "Desistance from Offending in the Twenty-First Century." Annual Review of Criminology 1: 311-334.

- R Nguyen, Holly and Thomas A. Loughran (2018). "On the Measurement and Identification of Turning Points in Criminology." Annual Review of Criminology 1: 335-358.
- R* Shanahan, Michael J. and Jason D. Boardman (2009). "Genetics and Behavior in the Life Course: A Promising Frontier." Pp. 215-235 in The Craft of Life Course Research, edited by Glen H. Elder, Jr. and Janet Z. Giele. New York: The Guilford Press.
- R Western, Bruce (2015). "Lifetimes of Violence in a Sample of Released Prisoners." RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences 1:14-30.
- R John H. Laub and Robert Sampson. "Life Course and Developmental Criminology: Looking Back, Moving Forward." Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology, forthcoming.

5/21

Final Examination Due at 4:00 pm