

# Introduction to Juvenile Delinquency

Sociology 260

Section 01

3 Credits

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 AM – 10:50 AM

## Instructor Information

Professor: Mark Heirigs, PhD

Office: Social Science Building 323

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and by appointment

E-Mail: mark.heirigs@umontana.edu

## Required Texts

Regoli, Robert M., John D. Hewitt, and Matt DeLisi. 2017. *Delinquency in Society, 10<sup>th</sup> edition*. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett.

Additional readings will be assigned.

## Course Description

This course is an introduction and overview of juvenile delinquency in the United States. We will cover what delinquency is and how we measure it. Furthermore, we will cover the theoretical frameworks used to explain juvenile delinquency. We will also cover the sociological context in which delinquency occurs. Lastly, we will cover the juvenile justice system and its processes.

Students are responsible for all material covered in lecture, films, the text, and additional readings. Criminal justice and sociology is a visceral subject. Some discussion in films, readings, and topics may include potentially offensive and stark language. Multiple-choice examinations cover all course materials. Students must take all examinations.

## Learning Goals

- Recognize the nature of delinquency
- Understand the theoretical frameworks of delinquency
- Comprehend the social context in which delinquency occurs
- Understand the nature of the juvenile justice system

## **Academic Integrity**

You must practice academic honesty in this course. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code, which is available for review online (<http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students/default.php>).

## **Disability Services**

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

## **Regarding Name, Gender Identity and Gender Expression**

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For information about name changes at the University of Montana, please go here:

<https://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/name-change/default.php>.

## **Discrimination and Harassment**

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX states that: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." If any employee of UM, including instructors and teaching assistants, learns of any potential gender-based discrimination (e.g., sexual violence, sexual harassment, rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or stalking), they are required to notify the Title IX Coordinator, Jessica Weltman (406-243-5710, Main Hall Room 006), immediately. Once an incident is reported to Title IX, the student will be contacted by the Title IX Coordinator for follow up. Students can also report directly to the Title IX coordinator in regards to any gender-based discrimination.

## **Confidential Resource**

The Student Advocacy Resource Center (SARC) provides *free and confidential* support and brief counseling services for students who have experienced gender-based discrimination. SARC is located in Curry Health Center, Room 108, and their number is **406-243-4429**. Students are also welcome to call their **24-hour support line 406-243-6559**. Speaking with a confidential resource

does not disqualify students from making a formal report to the Title IX Coordinator if and when they are ready. In the confidential setting, students will be made aware of available resources and reporting options. An advocate is available for all students upon request through SARC.

### **Promoting Student Health & Wellness**

Any student who faces challenges securing food or housing, and believes that this could affect their performance in this course, is urged to contact any or all of the following campus resources.

### **Food Pantry Program**

UM offers a food pantry that students can access for emergency food. The pantry is open Tuesday, 9:00-2:00 & Friday, 10:00-5:00. The pantry is located in UC 119 (in the former ASUM Childcare offices). Pantry staff operate several satellite food cupboards on campus (including one at Missoula College). For more information about this program, email [umpantry@mso.umt.edu](mailto:umpantry@mso.umt.edu), visit the pantry's website (<https://www.umt.edu/uc/food-pantry/default.php>), or contact the pantry on social media (@pantryUm on twitter, @UMPantry on Facebook, um\_pantry on Instagram).

### **ASUM Renter Center**

The Renter Center has compiled a list of resources for UM students at risk of homelessness or food insecurity (<http://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/renter-center/default.php>). Students can schedule an appointment with Renter Center staff to discuss their situation and receive information, support, and referrals.

### **TRiO Student Support Services**

TRiO serves UM students who are low-income, first-generation college students, or have documented disabilities. TRiO services include a textbook loan program, scholarships and financial aid help, academic advising, coaching, and tutoring. Students can check their eligibility for TRiO services online (<http://www.umt.edu/trioss/apply.php#Eligibility>).

### **Late Assignments & Make Up Exams Policy**

Late Assignments will be accepted for up to a week after they are due with a 10% penalty per day. Make up exams will *only* be administered for legitimate documented emergency events and illnesses. It is up to the student to provide documentation and contact the professor with information about why they missed the exam and when they can make it up. *Accepting late assignments and administering make up exams is ultimately up to the instructor's discretion.*

## Exams

There will be four unit exams. Exams will be multiple choice. Material covered in the text, lectures, and films will all be possible exam topics. Exams will be 30 questions.

## Homework

There will be a paper due near the end of the semester. Since this is considered a major assignment, the expectation is that you are working on it throughout the semester. This also means that I am available to answer questions you may have. The paper will cover a topic of your choice regarding juvenile delinquency. You will also be required to seek out research that has found. We will do this in small steps.

First, you will turn in an annotated bibliography. This will help you find sources for your final paper. It will also help you begin to conceptualize your final paper. Next, you will turn in the final paper. Doing it in this order will create a better result and take away the stress of finding resources last minute. The expectations for the paper will be passed out on the date noted on the course schedule.

Assignments will be turned in online.

## Discussion Posts

I will assign readings for you to do outside of class. You will answer discussion based questions regarding the reading on Moodle. You can find the days we are doing group work on the course schedule below marked with a '\*'. The Moodle posts will be due by 11:59 PM the day that they are marked on the course calendar.

## Grading

Discussion Posts	15%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Paper	30%
Exams	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>

100%	93%	A
92.99%	90%	A-
89.99%	87%	B+
86.99%	83%	B
82.99%	80%	B-
79.99%	77%	C+
76.99%	73%	C
72.99%	70%	C-
69.99%	67%	D+
66.99%	63%	D
62.99%	60%	D-
59.99%	0	F

## Course Schedule

Group Works denoted with \*

### The Nature and Extent of Delinquency (Chapters 1-2)

**August 20<sup>th</sup>**

Course Introduction

**August 25<sup>th</sup>**

Defining Delinquency

**August 27<sup>th</sup>**

Film: Scared Straight (*Affluenza and the inequality of Life Chances*)\*

**September 1<sup>st</sup>**

Measuring Delinquency

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Review

**September 8<sup>th</sup>**

Exam 1

### Delinquency Theories (Chapters 3-8)

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**

Choice and Biological Theories

**September 15<sup>th</sup>**

Psychological Theories

**September 17<sup>th</sup>**

Film: *The Iceman and the Psychiatrist*

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Cultural Deviance, Strain, and Social Control

**September 24<sup>th</sup>**

Labeling Theory/Conflict Theory (*Becoming a Marijuana User*)\*

**September 29<sup>th</sup>**

Developmental Theories

**October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Female Delinquency Theories

**October 6<sup>th</sup>**

Theory Group Work and Review \*

**October 8<sup>th</sup>**

Exam 2

**The Social Context of Delinquency (Chapters 9-12)**

**October 13<sup>th</sup>**

The Family and Delinquency

**October 15<sup>th</sup>**

Schools and Delinquency (*Saints and the Roughnecks*)\*

**October 20<sup>th</sup>**

Film: *The Lost Children of Rockdale County* (**Annotated Bibliography Due**)

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Violence, Drug use, and Delinquency

**October 27<sup>th</sup>**

Peer Group and Gang Delinquency (*Code of the Streets*)\*

**October 29<sup>th</sup>**

Review

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*Election Day – No Classes*

**November 5<sup>th</sup>**

Exam 3

**The Juvenile Justice System and Special Topics (Chapters 13-14)**

**November 10<sup>th</sup>**

The Juvenile Justice System and The Juvenile Court

**November 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Juvenile Justice System and The Juvenile Court

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**

Juvenile Delinquency Prevention & Rehabilitation of Lower Level Youth (*Programing Group Work*)\* (**FINAL PAPER DUE**)

**November 19<sup>th</sup>**

Review

**November 24<sup>th</sup>**

Exam 4

**\*\*\*\*\*SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\*\*\***

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