

---

# Soc 362

## Juvenile Delinquency

---

### Overview

This course will focus on major theoretical traditions in the sociology of crime and juvenile delinquency. Special attention will be paid to defining delinquency, potential causes of delinquency, and understanding societal reactions to juvenile delinquents. We will then analyze and discuss efforts at preventing delinquency and rehabilitating delinquents.

### Goals

- 1) Introduce you to the major research on juvenile delinquency. This goal will be achieved primarily through the readings, class activities, and discussions.
- 2) Appreciate structure and the extent to which social forces shape how we view and treat juveniles, and how we approach and remedy juvenile delinquency.
- 3) Think critically about issues related to juvenile delinquency, including media portrayal of juvenile delinquency and prevention strategies.

### Requirements

There are 4 major course requirements (440 points total).

- 1) Quizzes (15 quizzes worth 10 points each) = 150 points

Quizzes will be every week on Wednesdays at **the beginning of class**, and will cover all material from the previous week. This will include readings from blackboard and powerpoint slides I present in class, which will also be posted in blackboard. No make-up quizzes will be offered.

\*You may drop your lowest quiz grade and replace it with the average of all your quiz grades at the end of the semester.

- 2) Discussion Lead (one worth 30 points) = 30 points

We will have discussions every Friday (**except March 3 and April 7**). After you sign up for your day to lead discussion, I will provide an updated list of dates for discussion leaders on blackboard.

\*Discussion leaders have 2 responsibilities:

- 1) In one page single-spaced, type a summary (one paragraph) and critique (one paragraph) of the reading that connects to our class lectures and

---

Spring 2017

MWF 10:10 – 11:00 am, Todd 307

Instructor: Eric Allen

E-Mail: eric.m.allen@wsu.edu

Office: Wilson-Short 148

Office Hours: Mon./Tues. 11 – 12,  
and by appointment

---

### Materials

There are no required materials, however you must bring a writing utensil and paper to every class.

### Milestones

---

March 10

Video Analysis Due: Boyz n the Hood

---

April 14

Video Analysis Due: Basketball Diaries

---

Discussion Leader

---

April 28

Last Day of Class

### Objectives

- 1) Gain a working knowledge of the key sociological theories of delinquency.
- 2) Explain how class, race, and gender condition social relationships and affect life chances.
- 3) Critically evaluate concrete policy responses to delinquency.

discussions, and provide 3 discussion questions. You will bring this typed to class to use as a reference as you lead your small discussion groups.

- 2) Lead discussions in small groups in class on your assigned day. Leaders will summarize their reading for roughly 5 minutes, then lead small group discussions for roughly 5 minutes. After 10 minutes, discussion leaders will rotate groups. This will continue until you have lead discussions for every small group.

Your discussion leader grade will reflect the quality of your one page paper (see # 1 above) and your ability to lead small group discussions, including accurately summarizing the readings, posing effective discussion questions, and encouraging group participation from everyone.

- 3) Attendance and Participation (4 points/day) = 180 points

Part of your grade requires your attendance and participation in class and discussions. Attendance will be taken each class (2 points), and points will be assigned for active participation in class discussions (2 points). On the days videos are shown and there is no discussion, attendance will be worth 4 points. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to ensure you have signed your name on the attendance sheet. Note: information in videos is not always provided in the PowerPoint lectures found in blackboard; therefore attendance and participation is imperative if you wish to do well in this course.

Cell phones should be put away and either turned off or on vibrate. If you are expecting an important call during class or need to leave early, please inform me before class.

- 4) Video Analysis Papers (2 papers worth 40 points each)

Two movies (Boyz 'n' the Hood and Basketball Diaries) will be shown in class throughout the semester. You will critically analyze these films using sociological concepts and theories discussed in class and in the readings. These papers should be 3-5 pages, typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. More information on these will be given in class. These papers are due 1 week after the video is finished in class. Late papers will be penalized 5 points every day they are late.

## Classroom Courtesy

**Professional classroom behavior is necessary** to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. This means no cell phones, talking out of turn, reading newspapers, etc. during class. Entering and leaving is distracting to your instructor and other students. Therefore, you need to be on time for class and stay until the end. If you must enter late or leave early, please inform me before class begins and take the seat nearest an exit. Repeated disruption of class may lead to penalties that reduce your final grade (see below).

In this class we will cover sensitive topics. Class discussions of the issues we study can stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Considering this is a college classroom, all discussions must be scholarly and respectful of all members

## Grading and Evaluation

All grades will be posted on Blackboard according to the following breakdown:

### Point Breakdown

Quizzes (15 quizzes X 10 points) = 150 points  
Discussion Lead (one lead X 30 points) = 30 points  
Attendance/Participation (4 points X 45 days) = 180 points  
Video Analysis Papers (2 papers X 40 points) = 80 points  
**Total Points = 440 points**

### Grading Scale

93-100% = A	76-79% = C+
90-92% = A-	73-75% = C
86-89% = B+	70-72% = C-
83-85% = B	66-69% = D+
80-82% = B-	63-65% = D
	< 63% = F

Grades are not rounded until the final course grades are calculated. Course grades will be rounded as the following: .5 and above will round up, while below .5 will round down.

If you ask me in the last couple weeks for a grade change, I will not be able to help you. If you are concerned about your grade, please talk to me before then. If you are struggling, please visit with me before or after class, come by during my office hours, or schedule an appointment so we can be on the same page. I am always happy to help and welcome the opportunity to talk with you any time before the end of the semester to consider ways I can enhance your experience in this class.

of the class (including me). If you feel that you may have issues with the course material, I urge to speak with me as soon as possible. Students who are repeatedly disrespectful may be removed from class and may receive an F for the course.

(1) **Scholarly comments are:** Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement; related to the class and course material; advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than only personal beliefs; and are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

(2) **Unacceptable behaviors in the classroom are:** (a) Personal attacks. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs. (b) Interrupting your instructor or other students. (c) Using the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed as scholarly endeavors (see above). (d) Using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students, and being physically aggressive. (e) Ignoring your instructor's authority to protect the integrity of the classroom. Anyone who violates these guidelines will be asked to cease and desist and may be asked to leave the classroom and/or drop the course.

**Failure to abide by these principles can result in academic penalties ranging from a lowered grade, to dismissal, to failing the course.**

## Academic Integrity

Washington State University and the Sociology department take academic integrity very seriously. If you cheat, you give yourself an advantage over other students; an advantage you do not deserve. Cheating robs honest students and disrespects the entire academic process. Do not cheat. Any and all cheating will result in an "F" for the course and will reported to the Academic Integrity Board. Cheating includes but is not limited to the following: plagiarizing (i.e. presenting as your own or for academic evaluation, the ideas or words of another without proper acknowledgement and citations), cheating on assignments or quizzes (including submitting the same (or substantially similar) papers or assignments), engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work, taking or acquiring test materials without faculty permission, buying unauthorized materials (i.e. don't buy papers or notes online). For more on what constitutes academic integrity and the consequences of violating academic integrity policies please visit <https://www.academicintegrity.wsu.edu/>

## Students with Disabilities

We are committed to providing assistance to help you succeed in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. Please go to the Access Center during the first two weeks of the semester to seek information or to qualify for accommodations. All accommodations **MUST** be approved through the DRC, located at 217 Washington Building. To make an appointment with a disability counselor, call 335-3417.

## Emergency Procedures/Protocol

Please take the time to go to the following websites and know WSU's emergency procedures and protocol: <http://safetyplan.wsu.edu>

## Syllabus Change Policy

Note this is a tentative course schedule and is subject to change at my discretion. This means class attendance and checking your email and blackboard are imperative to learn of any changes.

## Course Calendar

### Week 1: Introduction

M	1/9	Syllabus review/Introductions
W	1/11	Quiz What is Delinquency and How Does it Differ from Adult Crime?
F	1/13	Discussion Week 1 Readings on blackboard

### Week 2: Nature and Extent of Delinquency

M	1/16	No Class – Martin Luther King Holiday
W	1/18	Quiz How Much Delinquency Is There and Is Delinquency Increasing?
F	1/20	Discussion Week 2 Readings on blackboard

### Week 3: Theories of Delinquency

M	1/23	Who Is Most Likely to Engage in Delinquency?
W	1/25	Quiz Strain Theory
F	1/27	Discussion Week 3 Readings on blackboard

### Week 4: Theories of Delinquency

M	1/30	Social Learning Theory
W	2/1	Quiz Control Theory
F	2/3	Discussion Week 4 Readings on blackboard

### Week 5: Theories of Delinquency

M	2/06	Labeling Theory
W	2/08	Quiz Is Delinquency More Likely In Certain Types of Situations?
F	2/10	Discussion Week 5 Readings on blackboard

### Week 6: Causes of Delinquency

M	2/13	Individual Traits
W	2/15	Quiz The Family
F	2/17	Discussion Week 6 Readings on blackboard

### Week 7: Causes of Delinquency

M	2/20	The School
W	2/22	Quiz Delinquent Peers and Gangs
F	2/24	Discussion Week 7 Readings on blackboard

### Week 8: Causes of Delinquency

M	2/27	Movie: Boyz n the Hood
W	3/1	Quiz Movie: Boyz n the Hood
F	3/3	Movie: Boyz n the Hood

### Week 9: Causes of Delinquency

M	3/6	Other Social Influences
W	3/8	Quiz Pulling It All Together
F	3/10	Discussion Video Analysis Due: Boyz n the Hood Week 9 Readings on blackboard

### Spring Break 3/13 – 3/17

### Week 10: The Control and Prevention of Delinquency

M	3/20	Policies and Programs
W	3/22	Quiz The Police
F	3/24	Discussion Week 10 Readings on blackboard

### Week 11: The Control and Prevention of Delinquency

M	3/27	Juvenile Court and Corrections
W	3/29	Quiz The Juvenile Justice System
F	3/31	Discussion Week 11 Readings on blackboard

### Week 12: The Control and Prevention of Delinquency

M	4/3	Movie: Basketball Diaries
W	4/5	Quiz Movie: Basketball Diaries
F	4/7	Movie: Basketball Diaries

### Week 13: The Control and Prevention of Delinquency

M	4/10	The Strategies of Deterrence and Incapacitation
W	4/12	Quiz The Strategies of Deterrence and Incapacitation
F	4/14	Discussion Video Analysis Due: Basketball Diaries Week 13 Readings on blackboard

### Week 14: The Control and Prevention of Delinquency

M	4/17	The Strategies of Prevention and Rehabilitation
W	4/19	Quiz The Strategies of Prevention and Rehabilitation
F	4/21	Discussion Week 14 Readings on blackboard

### Week 15: The Control and Prevention of Delinquency

M	4/24	What Should We Do to Reduce Delinquency?
W	4/26	Quiz What Should We Do to Reduce Delinquency?
F	4/28	Discussion Week 15 Readings on blackboard