University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Department of Criminal Justice
CRIJ 3322: Juvenile Delinquency (Fall 2017)

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Email: hyojong.song@utrgv.edu

Office Hours:
Thursday 3:00pm-4:00pm
Or by appointment

Class Time and Location:
Thursday 4:40pm-7:10pm
Life & Health Sciences #61 1.104, Brownsville Campus

Course Description:
Juvenile delinquency includes many types of illegal behaviors and status offenses committed by adolescents. Since a majority of violent crimes are committed by late teens and mid-twenties, criminologists have primarily been interested for a long time in exploring causes of crime and delinquency among juveniles and young adults. In addition, many empirical studies found various risk/protective factors for juvenile delinquency in several contexts of family, school, peers, and drugs. This course thus examines these relevant theories and social contexts pertaining to juvenile delinquency. In addition, definitions, conceptions, and historical trends, relevant statistics in regard to juvenile delinquency are discussed in this course as well.

Learning Objectives:
At the end of this course, students will be able to understand:
1. Definitions and conceptions of juvenile delinquency
2. Characteristics of historical trends in juvenile delinquency across gender and race/ethnicity
3. Similarities and differences in theoretical perspectives of juvenile delinquency
4. Diverse social contexts in which juvenile delinquency frequently occurs
5. Goals and philosophy of juvenile justice system

Required Textbook:

Note: Do not purchase/rent the first edition of this book. Make sure that you correctly order the second edition.
Grading Policies:
Your final grade will be based on the sum of the scores of your attendance (30 points), one research assignment (100 points), and two exams (100 points each).

Attendance: 30 points
Research Assignment: 100 points
Midterm Exam: 100 points
Final Exam: 100 points

Total: 330 points

A: 330-297 points
B: 296-263 points
C: 262-229 points
D: 228-195 points
F: below 194 points

Note: Your final grades are NOT negotiable unless I make an error in calculating your grades.

Attendance:
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Two points will be given every week if you attend class. Students who fail to attend the lecture more than FOUR times will be dropped from the course. Students are also encouraged to be on time. If you arrive after the lecture starts, your attendance credit will be deducted one point.

UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations. If students are unable to attend the lecture due to family emergency and medical issues, proper documentation that proves emergent incidents stated above (e.g., doctor’s note, etc.) need to be submitted to avoid reduction of absence.

Research Assignment:
One research assignment will be given to students in this course. This assignment requires students to address their opinions about one of the topics covered in this course. For example, if you are interested in macro-level theories of juvenile delinquency, you may discuss why macro-theories explain juvenile delinquency better than other theories (e.g., micro-level theories, critical theories). With this topic, you may compare features of macro-level theories with those of other theories, such as strengths of macro-level theories and weaknesses of both
micro-level theories and critical theories in terms of explaining delinquent behaviors among juveniles.

To support your arguments, you need to search for at least FIVE academic articles and summarize and cite them following the sentences of your argument. These research articles must be published in peer-reviewed academic journals (e.g., newspaper articles, Wikipedia, Blog postings, etc. are NOT allowed). Students can access them via the University library. The summary of your academic article must include: research question (or research hypotheses), sample characteristics, research findings, policy implications, and most importantly, your summaries must also include discussions about how these features of research can support your arguments. Do not simply copy and paste the abstract of each article. This is plagiarism so it will be strongly enforced.

**Assignment is due 11:59pm, November 30.** Students must submit the assignment using either a DOC (MS-WORD) or PDF (Adobe) file through Blackboard by the due date. A late assignment will also be acceptable but subject to 10% reduction (10 points) and must be submitted no later than **11:59pm December 2**. No late assignment will be accepted after December 2. More details about a word minimum, format, and rubric will be announced in class.

**Exams:**
Students will take two exams during the semester. Exams will include, but are not limited to multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank questions. Students are strongly encouraged to arrive at the classroom on time for exams. Students more than 15 minutes late will NOT be allowed to take exams. No make-up exams will be given to students except for a few emergent situations that can be proven by proper documentation.

**Important Notes:**
1. Students are expected to read an assigned chapter prior to every class.
2. Students are encouraged to ask questions if something is unclear about this lecture. Students can use the time after class or office hours. Students may also contact me via email. I will respond to students' emails within 24 hours unless they are irrelevant to the course or written in a rude/aggressive manner.
3. Students are NOT allowed to use cell-phones during the lecture. This will lead to FIVE points deduction in your final grade every time it is detected.
4. Recording lectures and taking pictures/videos in class are prohibited without my permission.
5. Instructor’s lecture notes will NOT be provided to students.
6. This syllabus is subject to change. If changes are necessary or desired during the course, I will immediately inform students of the change in class as well as via email.
## Course Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Note</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/31</td>
<td>Overview of syllabus / Introduction of juvenile delinquency in a diverse society</td>
<td>Ch.1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>History of juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>Data, correlates, and trends of juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.3</td>
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<td>9/21</td>
<td>Micro-level theories of juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/28</td>
<td>Macro-level theories of juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>Critical theories of juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Covers Ch.1-Ch.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>Juvenile delinquency in family contexts</td>
<td>Ch.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Juvenile delinquency in school contexts</td>
<td>Ch.8</td>
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<td>11/2</td>
<td>Effects of peers on juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.9</td>
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<td>11/9</td>
<td>Drugs and juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.10</td>
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<td>11/16</td>
<td>ASC conference - no class</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>Thanksgiving - no class</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>Response to juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.11</td>
<td>Assignment Due: 11:59pm, Nov. 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/7</td>
<td>Study Day - no class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Covers Ch.7-Ch.11</td>
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**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the
semester are eligible for temporary services. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:**
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account ([http://my.utrgv.edu](http://my.utrgv.edu)); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

- **Fall 2017 Module 1**  
  Oct. 5 – Oct. 11
- **Fall 2017 Module 2**  
  Nov. 29 – Dec. 5
- **Fall 2017 (full semester)**  
  Nov. 15 – Dec. 6

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:**
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:**
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student's time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.
COURSE DROPS:
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.