University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Department of Criminal Justice
CRIJ 3322: Juvenile Delinquency (Spring 2018)

Instructor: Hyojong Song, Ph.D.
Office: BSETB (M-0) 1.144
Email: hyojong.song@utrgv.edu

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

Class Time and Location:
Tuesday 4:40pm-7:10pm
SABAL HALL #96 1.102, 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, and peers. 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), research assignment (70 points), and four exams (200 points; 50 points each). **Note that your final grades are NOT negotiable unless I make an error in calculating your grades.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>30 points (2 points * 15 times)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Assignment</td>
<td>70 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>200 points (50 points * 4 exams)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>300 points</td>
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A: 300-270 points  
B: 269.99-240 points  
C: 239.99-210 points  
D: 209.99-180 points  
F: below 179.99 points

**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 receive an F unless they drop the course.** Students are also encouraged to be on time and not to leave early. If you arrive after the lecture starts or leave early before the lecture is over, 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 written assignment requires students to 1) select any research question relevant to the topics discussed in this course, 2) find THREE academic empirical studies related to the research question selected, 3) summarize them, and 4) write your thoughts, suggestions, criticism, or reflection about the studies that you choose. Although students are encouraged to choose any research topic they would like to respond to, a set of example research questions will be provided as well.
THREE empirical studies must be published in peer-reviewed academic journals (newspaper articles, Wikipedia, Blog postings, etc. are NOT allowed). Students can access those peer-reviewed journals via the University library (www.utrgv.edu/library). The summary of your empirical article should include: research question (or research hypotheses), sample characteristics, and findings. 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, April 17.** Students must submit the assignment through Blackboard by the due date. A late assignment will also be acceptable but subject to 10% reduction (7 points) and must be submitted no later than **11:59pm April 20.** No late assignment will be accepted after April 20. More details about a word minimum, format, and rubric will be announced in class.

**Exams:**
Students will take FOUR exams during the semester. Exams will include multiple choice and true/false 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. Keep in mind that no make-up exams will be given to students except for a few emergent situations that can be proven by proper documentation (e.g., death of immediate family, admission to a hospital). Make-up exams will only include essay-type questions rather than multiple choice or true/false ones.

**Important Notes:**
1. Students are expected to read an assigned chapter prior to every class.
2. Students are encouraged to ask questions. 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. 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.

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Overview of syllabus / Introduction of juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapter</td>
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<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>History of juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.2</td>
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<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>Data, correlates, and trends of juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.3</td>
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<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>Micro-level theories of juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Macro-level theories of juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.5</td>
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<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Critical theories of juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.6</td>
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<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>NO CLASS – Spring Break</td>
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<td>Mar 20</td>
<td>Juvenile delinquency in family contexts</td>
<td>Ch.7</td>
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<td>Mar 27</td>
<td>Juvenile delinquency in school contexts</td>
<td>Ch.8</td>
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<td>Apr 3</td>
<td>Effects of peers on juvenile delinquency</td>
<td>Ch.9</td>
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<td>Apr 10</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
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<td>Apr 17</td>
<td>Overview of juvenile justice system</td>
<td>Ch.11</td>
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<td>Apr 24</td>
<td>Policing and the process of the juvenile court</td>
<td>Ch.12</td>
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<td>May 1</td>
<td>Juvenile corrections</td>
<td>Ch.13</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>Final Exam</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:

- **Spring 2018 Module 1**    February 14 – February 20
- **Spring 2018 Module 2**    April 11 – April 17
- **Spring 2018 (full semester)**    April 11 – May 2

**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.

**Student Services:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)