SOC 340: Juvenile Delinquency

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Course Description

Study the conceptual and structural environment of juvenile delinquency in American society. Topics included are the history of delinquency, measuring delinquency, explaining delinquency, environmental influences on delinquency, the juvenile-legal system, preventing delinquency, and controlling delinquency.

Students With Disabilities

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

Honor Code

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community’s academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate. UNC’s policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed.

UNC’s Policies

UNC’s policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. UNC policies can be reviewed at:
http://library.unco.edu/assistance/copyright/students.htm
Honor Code - [http://www.unco.edu/dos/academicIntegrity/index.html](http://www.unco.edu/dos/academicIntegrity/index.html)

Academic Misconduct - [http://www.unco.edu/dos/pdf/StudentCodeofConduct.pdf](http://www.unco.edu/dos/pdf/StudentCodeofConduct.pdf)

Links to student resources on **plagiarism** are also accessible from above sites.

**Textbook:** The textbook listed below is required for the course:


**Course Requirements**

Regular online attendance is required. All persons taking the course for credit will be graded on the basis of their performance on five examinations and four discussions.

**Examinations** are designed to test your command of textbook material. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the textbook (Please see attached Topical Agenda). Textbook materials may be used during examinations. Most exam questions will be taken from the textbook for the current section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus in information in other parts of the textbook.

Examinations are taken online, and may be accessed via the “Exams” link on the course Home Page. In order to avoid penalties, examinations must be taken within designated time periods. Late exams are excused only with prior approval by the instructor, and if the instructor is notified in writing well in advance of the exam. All other late exams will be downgraded by five (5) points.

When participating in **Discussions** (except Discussion # 1, the “Ice Breaker”) you will be required to refer to, and to cite in-text, textbook materials, “Here Is My Take” materials, Power Point presentation materials, and information from YouTube videos. You will also be required to use, and cite in-text, relevant web-based material you find. **Always use textbook material, plus, in order to earn “A” or “B” range grades, use and cite in-text at least two other types of listed material, in all sections of all posts.** You will also be encouraged to cite other appropriate scholarly material. Participating late in Discussions is excused only with prior approval by the instructor, and if the instructor is notified in writing well in advance of the end of a Discussion period. All other late Discussion participation will result in a penalty of (5)
points per Discussion. DO NOT string citations together. Instead, place
 citations in-text, directly after the material you have summarized from a
 specific required source. DO NOT quote excessively. Please limit yourself to
 no more than one brief quote per post. Instead of quoting, please
 summarize material in your own words.

Discussions can be accessed using the "Discussion Board" link on the course
Home Page. Exams can be accessed using the "Exams" link on the course Home
Page.

Discussions and Exams are available on Blackboard
(http://unco.blackboard.com). The login and password for Blackboard is
the same as you use when accessing URSA. If you need help finding
Blackboard, with login or password issues, or with any other technical
aspect of using Blackboard, please call the UNC Help Desk (970-351-4357)
and ask for help. If the Help Desk does not provide the help you need,
please let me know, via email message, ASAP. Learning objectives, chapter
summaries, Power Point presentations, “Here Is My Take” materials and
YouTube videos can be accessed by using the “Course Materials” link.

Grading

For grading purposes, each Examination is valued as indicated below:

Exam 1 ............... 25 points
Exam 2 ............... 25 points
Exam 3 ............... 25 points
Exam 4 ............... 25 points

For grading purposes, each Discussion is valued as indicated below:

Discussion 1 ....... 25 points
Discussion 2 ...... 25 points
Discussion 3 ...... 25 points
Discussion 4 ...... 25 points

Total 200 Possible Points

Final grades for the course will be determined by summing the points that you
earn on Examinations and Discussions and by using the following formula to
convert cumulative scores to letter grades:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>180-200</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160-179</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140-159</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120-139</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOPICAL AGENDA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment*</th>
</tr>
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**UNIT 1**

Part I The Nature and Extent of Delinquency

**Discussion 1 – Ice Breaker**

Instructions: In a CLEARLY LABELED Main Post (label it “Main Post,” nothing else), please introduce yourself to your classmates. At minimum, please tell us about: (1) your educational history, starting with elementary school, (2) your educational interests/plans, (3) your occupational interests/plans and (4) anything else about yourself that you care to share with us. You must also comment on the main posts of three classmates. Note: This is a required part of the class. Possible points: 25 maximum

- Adolescence and Delinquency
  - Chapter 1*
- Measuring Delinquency
  - Chapter 2

**Exam 1** covers textbook chapters 1-2.

Examinations are designed to test your command of the textbook. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the textbook. Textbook materials may be used during examinations. Most exam questions will be taken from the textbook for that section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus in information in other parts of the textbook. You will have 1 hour to complete each exam, so be sure that you are ready before beginning. In order to prevent your being disconnected before the exam has been completed, it is strongly recommended that you enter exams using a WIRED (not wireless) connection. UNC Computer labs are ideal for this purpose. Please note: If exams are taken late, 5 points will be deducted from the exam score.
UNIT 2

Part II Causes of Delinquency

Discussion 2—Important Concepts

Instructions: Find three websites that focus on important concepts related to juvenile delinquency. In your CLEARLY LABELED Main Post (label it “Main Post,” nothing else), provide the addresses of the sites. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, describe the contents of each site, and explain how EACH SITE provides information about at least 1 of the following 5 important concepts (at-risk child, delinquent child, status offender, dependent child, neglected child) found in our textbook. Your main post must cover at least 3 of the 5 important concepts. As you develop your main post, and as you introduce EACH important concept, please place it in CAPITAL LETTERS, and please cite, in-text, the textbook page numbers where the concept is discussed. In order to earn high grades, you must also summarize, and cite in-text, information from other required sources (Power Point Presentation, “Here Is My Take” materials, and YouTube videos). Always use textbook material. In order to earn “A” or “B” range grades, you must also use, and cite in-text, at least two other types of listed material – IN ALL POSTS. Example: For the concept “delinquent child,” the in-text textbook citation would look like this: (Text, pp. 11-12). The Power Point citation would look like this: (Chapter 1 Power Point, Slides #s 6 and 13). The YouTube citation would look like this: (YouTube, ‘The Adolescent Child). The “Here Is My Take” citation would look like: (Musick, Chapter 1, p. 12). Note: Textbook material (always), and, for “A” or “B” range grades, at least two of the following: Power Point, “Here Is My Take” and YouTube material, must be included, and cited in-text. This is how you prove to me that you have read and viewed the material.

Finally, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, using, and citing it in-text, material found in our textbook (always) as well as in Power Point presentations, “Here Is My Take” materials and YouTube videos (for “A” and “B” range grades, use at least two other types of required material in all comment posts), comment on the main posts of three classmates. Note: This is a required part of the class. Possible points: 25 maximum. In order to earn maximum points, please select websites that other members of the class have not already discussed.

- Individual Causes of Delinquency Chapter 3
- Social Structural Causes of Delinquency Chapter 4
- Social Process Theories of Delinquency Chapter 5
- Interactionist Theories of Delinquency Chapter 6
Exam 2 covers textbook chapters 3-6.

Examinations are designed to test your command of the textbook. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the textbook. Assigned reading materials may be used during examinations. Most exam questions will be taken from the assigned reading for that section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus in information in other parts of the textbook. You will have 1 hour to complete the Exam, so be sure that you are ready before beginning. In order to prevent your being disconnected before the Exam has been taken, it is strongly recommended that you enter Exams using a WIRED (not wireless) connection. UNC Computer labs are ideal for this purpose. Please note: If exams are taken late, 5 points will be deducted from the exam score.

UNIT 3

Part III Environmental Influences on Delinquency

Discussion 3– Gender, Families, Schools, Gangs, Drugs and Delinquency

Instructions: Find 3 websites that focus on at least 3 of the following five environmental influences on delinquency (Gender, Families, Schools, Gangs, Drugs). In your CLEARLY LABELED Main Post (label it “Main Post,” nothing else), provide the addresses of the sites. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, describe the contents of each site, and explain how EACH SITE provides information that amplifies (or compliments) what you have read about the concepts in Chapters 7-12 of our textbook. As you develop your main post, and as you introduce EACH important concept, please place it in CAPITAL LETTERS, and please cite, in-text, the textbook page numbers where the concept is discussed. In order to earn high grades, you must also summarize, and cite in-text, information from other required sources (Power Point Presentation, “Here Is My Take” materials, and YouTube videos). Always use textbook material. In order to earn “A” or “B” range grades, you must also use, and cite in-text, at least two other types of listed material – IN ALL POSTS. Please use the citation format described in the Discussion 2 instructions, above. Note: Textbook material must always be summarized, and cited in-text. In order to earn “A” or “B” range grades, at least two other required types of material (Power Point, “Here Is My Take” and YouTube) must be included, and cited in-text. This is how you prove to me that you have read and viewed the material.

Finally, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, using, and citing it in-text, material found in our textbook (always) as well as in Power Point presentations, “Here Is My Take” materials and YouTube videos (for “A” and “B” range grades, use at least two other types of required material in all comment posts), comment
on the main posts of three classmates. Note: This is a required part of the class.
Possible points: 25 maximum. In order to earn maximum points, please select
websites that other members of the class have not already discussed.

Gender and Delinquency Chapter 7
Families and Delinquency Chapter 8
Schools and Delinquency Chapter 9
Gangs and Delinquency Chapter 10
Drugs and Delinquency Chapter 11
Prevention of Delinquency Chapter 12

Exam 3 covers textbook chapters 7-12.

Examinations are designed to test your command of the textbook. Each
examination will be made up of 25 true/false and multiple choice questions.
Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the textbook.
Assigned reading materials may be used during examinations. Most exam
questions will be taken from the assigned reading for that section of the
class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions
may focus in information in other parts of the textbook. You will have 1
hour to complete the Exam, so be sure that you are ready before beginning. In
order to prevent your being disconnected before the Exam has been taken, it is
strongly recommended that you enter Exams using a WIRED (not wireless)
connection. UNC Computer labs are ideal for this purpose. Please note: If
exams are taken late, 5 points will be deducted from the exam score.

UNIT 4

Part IV The Juvenile Justice System

Discussion 4– Preventing Delinquency, The Juvenile Justice Process, The
Police and Delinquency, The Juvenile Court and Juvenile Corrections

Instructions: Find 3 websites that focus on at least 3 of the following five
elements related to preventing and controlling delinquency (1 - prevention,
diversion and treatment, 2 - the juvenile justice process, 3 - the police and
delinquency, 4 - the juvenile court and 5 - juvenile corrections). In your
CLEARLY LABELED Main Post (label it “Main Post,” nothing else),
provide the addresses of the sites. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, describe the
contents of each site, and explain how EACH SITE provides information that
amplifies (or compliments) what you have read about the concepts in Chapters
12-16 of our textbook. As you develop your main post, and as you introduce EACH important concept, **please place it in CAPITAL LETTERS**, and please cite, in-text, the textbook page numbers where the concept is discussed. In order to earn high grades, you must also summarize, and cite in-text, information from other required sources (Power Point Presentation, “Here Is My Take” materials, and YouTube videos). **Always use textbook material. In order to earn “A” or “B” range grades, you must also use, and cite in-text, at least two other types of listed material – IN ALL POSTS.** Please use the citation format described in the Discussion 2 instructions, above. **Note: Textbook material must always be summarized, and cited in-text. In order to earn “A” or “B” range grades, at least two other required types of material (Power Point, “Here Is My Take” and YouTube) must be included, and cited in-text. This is how you prove to me that you have read and viewed the material.**

Finally, **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**, using, and citing it in-text, material found in our textbook (always) as well as in Power Point presentations, “Here Is My Take” materials and YouTube videos (for “A” and “B” range grades, use at least two other types of required material in all comment posts), comment on the main posts of three classmates. **Note: This is a required part of the class. Possible points: 25 maximum. In order to earn maximum points, please select websites that other members of the class have not already discussed.**

- The Juvenile Justice Process Chapter 13
- The Police and Juveniles Chapter 14
- The Juvenile Court Chapter 15
- Juvenile Corrections Chapter 16

**Exam 4** covers textbook chapters 13-16.

**Examinations** are designed to test your command of the textbook. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the textbook. Assigned reading materials may be used during examinations. **Most exam questions will be taken from the assigned reading for that section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus on information in other parts of the textbook.** You will have 1 hour to complete the Exam, so be sure that you are ready before beginning. In order to prevent your being disconnected before the Exam has been taken, it is strongly recommended that you enter Exams using a WIRED (not wireless) connection. UNC Computer labs are ideal for this purpose. **Please note: If exams are taken late, 5 points will be deducted from the exam score.**
*All chapter reading assignments are for Bartollas & Schmalleger, 2011, *Juvenile Delinquency* (our textbook).