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COURSE NUMBER AND COURSE TITLE

SOC 220: Juvenile Delinquency

COURSE DESCRIPTION & PREREQUISITES

Welcome to Juvenile Delinquency. This course is a seminar on issues related to juvenile delinquency. Along with the text, we will also review current and past research on juvenile delinquency found in appropriate academic journals by respected scholars in the field. We will cover a variety of theories and assess the research testing those theories. You will learn to assess academic research with respect to theory, methods, and results. This course will give students a much greater understanding of the current issues in juvenile delinquency. In addition to the readings, we will also have online student presentations, and view videos related to the juvenile justice system.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Know the theories used to explain the onset and desistance of juvenile delinquency.
2. Understand current research on juvenile delinquency.
3. Gain awareness of the contradictions between popular belief and reality concerning juvenile delinquency.
4. Learn to assess data from the UCR and other data sources.



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HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

P F P E – Be Present. Be Focused. Be Prepared. Be Engaged. The policies in this syllabus exist to support your success in this course.

Research shows the variable that most strongly predicts student success, as measured by GPA, is class *attendance*. (Credé, Roch & Kieszcznka, 2010). Or, as Woody Allen once famously said, “Eighty percent of success is showing up.” Showing up in an online class means you should:

- Sign on to Blackboard and check for announcements/updates/new material at least once a day.
- Check your email for messages from your instructor and/or classmates at least once a day.
- Read the assigned material and watch the course videos well in advance of the date that discussion board assignments are due. Give yourself time to digest the material and get questions answered, if you have any. Do *not* try to cram everything into one day!
- Engage with your classmates on the discussion boards! Not only is this a significant part of your grade; it is also the best way to interact with, and learn from, each other.
- Stay in contact with your instructor. If you have questions about the material or an assignment – ASK!
- Stay engaged

You should also know that students have access to a number of free services designed to help them succeed in college while maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The Academic Success Center offers tutoring and individualized academic guidance; the Writing Center offers assistance with all steps in the writing process; and Health Services provides confidential counseling for students who need assistance with personal stress, problematic behaviors, or mental health concerns.

EVALUATION METHODS

Discussion Boards

Each module will have a corresponding discussion board question on Blackboard. You are required to answer the question *and* make a substantive response to at least two other students’ answers. In total, your discussion board posts will comprise 25% of your final grade in this course. The rubric used to grade your discussion board posts is available on Blackboard under the Course Documents link.

Quizzes

There will be eight quizzes in this course. They will correspond with each respective module in Blackboard. Combined, they will be worth 30% of your final grade in this course.



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Research Briefs

You will be required to write two research briefs describing scholarly research on a topic related to juvenile delinquency. More specific instructions regarding this assignment, along with the rubric that will be used to grade it, can be found in Blackboard under the Research Briefs link. These assignments together will be worth 15% of your final grade in this course.

Team Presentation

I will assign you to a group early in the term and your group will be assigned a research article. You and the members of your group will do a PowerPoint presentation over the article and present 1;) the theory used in the article, 2;) how this article relates to what we have been discussing in class, 3;) the findings and conclusions reached by the author(s) of the article. This presentation will be due the final week of class, and will be worth 30% of your final grade.

GRADING INFORMATION

Assignment Title	Percentage of Final Grade
Discussion Boards	25%
Quizzes	30%
Research Briefs	15%
Team Presentation	30%
TOTAL	100%

GRADING SCALE

93-100%	A	77-80%	C+
90-93%	A-	74-77%	C
87-89%	B+	70-73%	C-
84-87%	B	60-69%	D
80-83%	B-	0-59%	F

POLICY ON LATE WORK



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No late assignments will be accepted. After the due date, an automatic zero will be entered. No work will be accepted after the course ends unless an incomplete has been granted.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any student detected of academic dishonesty will receive the appropriate sanctions, which can include a failing grade ("F") for the course. In cases of serious violations, additional sanctions (such as academic probation or suspension) are possible.

COLLEGE COUNSELING OFFICE

At times during the college years, some students become overly stressed, anxious or depressed. This happens much more frequently than you might think. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, please call the campus counseling center for help. To make an appointment with one of our qualified counselors, please call (618) 537-6590. These services are free and confidential, so please take advantage of them.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND ADA POLICY

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), McKendree University provides services, auxiliary aides, and accommodations to meet the unique learning needs of students with disabilities. Students with officially documented disabilities, medical needs, legal problems, or who are the victims of crimes may qualify for educational accommodations. A student requiring assistance should contact the McKendree Student Success and Advising Center (SSAC). The SSAC provides coordination and implementation of special accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students requiring accommodations for other issues should contact their instructor, Student Affairs, or Health Services.

For further information regarding university or course policies, please consult with your instructor and/or refer to the catalog.

EMAIL

Every student is issued a McKendree email account, which is the major means of communication from me. I will email you at least once a week to make sure everyone is up to date in the class. All students are responsible for checking their McKendree email accounts regularly and are accountable for information disseminated to



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their email accounts. Failure to read my communications sent to McKendree email accounts does not absolve students from knowing and complying with the content of these communications.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Situated in the lower level of the Piper Academic Center, the Information Technology Department and HelpDesk office hours are Monday – Friday from 6:00 am to 5:00 pm. Support is also available via email at helpdesk@mckendree.edu or by phone (618)537-6445. Information Technology provides a variety of services to students. These services include login assistance, student ID cards, computer and mobile device support, e-mail assistance, on campus internet services, which includes on campus wireless access and more. Please visit support.mckendree.edu for a full list of IT services provided by the McKendree Information Technology Department.

HOLMAN LIBRARY

Holman Library, completed in 1969, houses a collection of books, periodicals, government documents, and audiovisual equipment and materials that are available to all students for check-out or for in-library use. The library also provides ample space for students to study, including individual study carrels and group study rooms. The library also offers a Mac computer lab, scanners, and collaborative workstations. In addition to the materials available in the library, other resources can be accessed via interlibrary loan. The library belongs to the CARLI consortium, which allows you to request items through many academic libraries throughout the state of Illinois. We also offer interlibrary loan services for journal articles. The library staff is always available to assist you in locating materials, and staff members can also help you get started on research for papers and projects.



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COURSE SCHEDULE

Module (Weeks)	Topic (Chapters)	Assignments
1	Part I: Chapters 1&2	Discussion Board 1 Quiz 1
2	Part II: Chapter 3	Discussion Board 2 Quiz 2
3	Part II: Chapter 4	Discussion Board 3 Quiz 3
4	Part II: Chapter 5	Discussion Board 4 Quiz 4 Research Brief 1
5	Part III: Chapters 6-8	Discussion Board 5 Quiz 5
6	Part III: Chapters 9&10	Discussion Board 6 Quiz 6 Research Brief 2
7	Part IV: Chapters 11&12	Discussion Board 7 Quiz 7
8	Part IV: Chapters 13&14	Discussion Board 8 Team Presentations Quiz 8

*Note the final week is a short week.

If necessary, adjustments to the Grading Information and/or Course Schedule may occur.