

## Introduction to Juvenile Delinquency

SOC 231

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**Course Description** This course will focus on the nature and extent of delinquency, answering the question of what is delinquency and how does it differ from adult crimes. We will examine the theories of delinquency, primarily focusing on strain theory, social learning, labeling, and control theory. Then we will look at some of the “causes” of delinquency, specifically the individual traits, the family factors, school factors, peer groups, gangs, and other factors. As well as examining the control and prevention of delinquency by looking at what the juvenile justice system (police, juvenile court, juvenile correctional agencies) does to control delinquency. We will also pay special attention to the general strategies surrounding the controlling of delinquency: the "get tough" strategies of deterrence and the strategies of rehabilitation and prevention.

**REQUIREMENTS** Larry J. Seigal and Brandon C. Welsh. 2010. Juvenile Delinquency: The Core. 4th edition. Cengage. ISBN: 0495809861

### **STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES (SLOs)**

By the end of this Intro to Juvenile Delinquency Course:

- students will have an understanding of the different methods of measuring juvenile delinquency.
- students will have a working knowledge of core theories about the causes of juvenile delinquency.
- Students will be able to evaluate, compare, and contrast core theories of juvenile delinquency.

You will have 10 written assignments in this course, each totaling a minimum of 400 words 2) As a commitment to course discussion, you will have a total of 10 class discussion requirements in which you must engage in discussion with your classmates by posting responses to the questions listed and following up with replies to your classmates' posts.

### **STUDENT EVALUATION**

Your grade will consist of the following:

10 Discussion Question postings worth 1.5 pts each

10 Assignments worth 3 points each

Mid-term exam worth 25 points Final exam worth 30 points

Total 100 points

Students should regularly check their Hawaii email account for messages.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS: (Schedule is subject to change) Week/Topic/Reading Assignment Week 1  
Childhood & Delinquency Chapter 1

Week 2 Nature & Extent of Delinquency Chapter 2

Week 3 Ind views of Delinquency Chapter 3

Week 4 Sociological Views of Delinquency Chapter 4

Week 5 Developmental Views of Delinquency Chapter 5

Week 6 Gender & Delinquency Chapter 6

Week 7 Family & Delinquency

Chapter 7 Mid-term exam (Chapters 1-7)

Week 8 Peers & Delinquency Chapter 8

Week 9 Schools & Delinquency Chapter 9

Week 10 Drug Use & Delinquency Chapter 10

Week 11 History & Development of Juv Justice Chapter 11

Week 12 Police Work with Juveniles Chapter 12

Week 13 Juvenile Court Process Chapter 13

Week 14 Juvenile Corrections Chapter 14

Week 15 Topic TBA Chapter 15 FINAL EXAM (Ch's 8-15)

SOME IMPORTANT ITEMS:

- NO MAKE UPS FOR ASSIGNMENTS, DISCUSSIONS, or EXAMS
- NO EXTRA CREDIT IS AVAILABLE FOR THIS COURSE UPON REQUEST
- NO GRADE NEGOTIATING

Doing well in this class: In order to do well in this class, it is important that you a) follow along with all assignments, and discussion questions, and (b) do all required readings It is critical that you do the readings.