Instructor Information

Colleen Ray, MS
Email: colleen.ray18@gmail.com
Office: 406 Oldfather Hall
Office Hours: Monday 2:00-4:00

Required Materials


Any additional readings will be provided to you on Blackboard. These will either be uploaded in a downloadable format or as links to sites where you can read the necessary material. They will be embedded within each weekly Module under the “Weekly Modules” tab.

Course Description

Sociology is the scientific study of society. To study juvenile delinquency from a sociological perspective, this course will contain three major sections. The first section will explore how juvenile delinquency is defined and measured, and how it occurs. This will be supplemented with theoretical explanations of why delinquency occurs. The second section will then investigate the real-life factors associated with delinquency in order to understand what aspects of society have major influences on the rates and manifestations of delinquency. In the third section you will learn about how juveniles experience the US criminal justice system. Throughout the course, students are expected to approach the material with a sociological lens, and maintain a focus of relating the material back to a societal context.

Course Objectives

- To create an understanding of juvenile delinquency using a sociological perspective or “sociological imagination,” rather than simply the use of “common sense.”
- To help students gain a better understanding of what juvenile justice is, and what it looks like in the U.S. and abroad (e.g. Europe or Asia).
- To apply sociological and criminological theories to juvenile delinquency in order to explain how and why it happens.
- To gain an understanding of how juvenile delinquency functions on both a macro- and micro-societal level.
- To investigate what societal aspects influence the rates and types of juvenile delinquency that occurs.
- To understand how juveniles transition through the criminal justice process, and how this differs from adults.
Course Format

Structure

All requirements for this course should be completed online, through Blackboard (my.unl.edu). In order to succeed you must have regular and reliable access to the internet either through a home computer, at a university library, or at public library computer. All of the relevant information, documents, PowerPoints, assignments, exams, videos, audio clips, discussion board, study guides, etc. will be provided via Blackboard. You will also find the email addresses of not only your instructor, but your fellow students through your Blackboard page. You can keep track of the new things occurring within the class via the daily announcements, as well as monitor your grades through your grade book. Blackboard will be the source of all information both from your instructor to you, as well as from you to your instructor. Please make it a habit to check your Blackboard page regularly, and to ensure that you are receiving emails when new announcements are posted.

Communication

All communication will occur through email. My email address, colleen.ray18@gmail.com, can also be found at the top of the syllabus or through Blackboard. All emails should be addressed appropriately with a salutation (i.e., “Good afternoon Colleen” or “Hello Ms. Ray”) rather than jumping directly into the content. You can call me Colleen, Ms. Ray, Instructor Ray, or Professor Ray. You may NOT address your emails with “hey” “what’s up,” “yo,” etc. Please sign your emails with your name so that I know who you are, not all email addresses provide the information needed to identify the sender. This will help you to form professional habits for email communication, and will be necessary for your careers after college.

I tend to be pretty quick at replying to email, but you should allow for at least 24 hours during the week and 48 hours on weekends. If I do not reply within those time frames please send a follow-up email.

Office Hours

Office hours will be held at the same time both in person and virtually. Virtual office hours will be held through Adobe Connect. This allows for a video meeting similar to Skype or Facetime, but you must inform me ahead of time if you would prefer to meet via video chat. If you would like to set up an in person meeting, or a virtual meeting through video with me outside of my office hours you can email me to schedule that meeting.

Assignment Submission

All exams, weekly responses, weekly quizzes, papers, and projects will be submitted via Blackboard. All submissions are due by **11:59 pm** on the day on which the assignment is due. A separate course calendar is available on Blackboard, and contains all due dates.

**NO LATE SUBMISSIONS will be accepted** unless previously approved by the instructor or accompanied by a documented medical excuse. If you think you will not be able to turn an assignment in on time, you must contact me in advance of the due date, any requests after the fact must be accompanied by documentation.

Assignments

Exams

There is only one exam for this course, and it will be taken through Blackboard. You will have two attempts on the exam. Your window will be open starting on **Monday, September 26th, at 12:01 a.m.**
and will close on **Friday, September 30th, at 11:59 p.m.** The exam will be 50 questions, and you will have one hour to complete it. The exams will cover all material that has been given in the course. This comprehensive exam includes information from your textbook, supplementary readings, any videos that you are provided, as well as any power points.

**Quizzes**

You will have a quiz each week corresponding to each week’s chapter. Each quiz will be 10 questions with a 20 minute time limit. These are open book quizzes, thus you are encouraged to use your textbook while taking them.

**Papers**

You will have one paper this semester. It will be a media analysis paper of a movie, and it is due **Friday, November 11th**. I will provide a list of movies at a later date for you to choose from. If you have another movie that you would rather use for this paper, you must give me a 2-week window to watch and approve or disapprove your movie choice. This means do not wait until 2 weeks before the paper is due to ask for permission to do another movie, because if your movie is not approved you will not have time to write a paper about another movie. The final date to propose a different movie for this paper is **Friday, October 21st**.

The purpose of this paper is to show your grasp of the material up until that point in the course, and apply it to a form of media. This assignment is meant to help sharpen your skills of sociology consumption of media. For this reason, you will be required to link similarities in the movie to what you have learned in class, as well as where the movie does not align with what we know about juvenile delinquency based on our textbook and other research. A full description of this assignment, as well as a detailed rubric will be provided on Blackboard at a later date.

**Weekly Responses**

Most weeks you will be responsible for providing a thoughtful response about a topic that corresponds to the week’s chapter and/or the additional sources provided on Blackboard. This topic will be supplied by the instructor, and is meant to expand your thinking on the related topics. You will be divided into smaller groups on Blackboard, and these will serve as your communities for discussion board postings. There is a tab on Blackboard for your Discussion Board communities, as well as a link provided each week through the Module page.

These weekly discussions may consist of, but are not limited to:

- Discussion board postings and replies
- Posting of an outside source found (e.g. YouTube video, news article, magazine article, etc.) by the student and an explanation linking this material for their fellow students on the discussion board
- Short reflection papers submitted directly to the instructor, which will be used for more sensitive topics.

A separate document will be provided on Blackboard that details of each type of weekly response, as well as the expectations of your performance and grading policies.
Group Project

We will not have a final exam or paper for this course, but instead you will have a group project. This project will have both individual and group components, and each student will be graded based upon their own portion, their contribution to the group, and the group product. The group project is due on **Friday, December 9th**, details about this project will be provided later in the semester via Blackboard.

Grading Policy

All grades will be posted to your gradebook on Blackboard. All grades will be posted within one week of the due date, unless otherwise indicated by the professor. Keep in mind that although your grade may not be seen as an F, if you score below a 72.5, a C-, this counts as a failed course for sociology majors and minors.

There will be no extra credit offered in this course, so please keep up with your assignments throughout the semester. Below is a table of the grading procedures that will be used within this class. The first set of numbers show the percentage, while the numbers in parentheses show the number of points needed to receive that grade.

A+ 97-100 (579-600)  B+ 87-89 (519-536)  C+ 77-79 (459-476)  D+ 67-69 (399-416)
F <=59% (<=356)

Grade Breakdown

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Media Paper</td>
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<td>Group Project</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Overall</strong></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
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*All points hold equal weight*
Course Schedule

Unit One – August 22nd – September 30th

Chapter 1: Childhood and Delinquency
Chapter 2: The Nature and Extent of Delinquency
Chapter 3: Individual Views of Delinquency
Chapter 4: Structure, Process, Culture, and Delinquency
Chapter 5: Social Reaction, Social Conflict, and Delinquency
Chapter 6: Developmental Theories of Delinquency

Assessment: Exam

Unit Two – October 3rd – November 11th

Chapter 7: Gender
Chapter 8: The Family
Chapter 9: Peers: Gangs and Groups
Chapter 10: Schools
Chapter 11: Drug Use
Chapter 12: Delinquency Prevention

Assessment: Media Analysis Paper

Unit Three – November 14th – December 9th

Chapter 13: Juvenile Justice: Then and Now
Chapter 14: Police
Chapter 15: Court Process: Pretrial, Trail, and Sentencing
Chapter 16: Corrections: Probation, Community Treatment, and Institutionalization

Assessment: Group Project

*Most weeks you will have additional readings that are provided on Blackboard in that week’s module.

Course Policies

Students with Disabilities

In accordance with the University policy, if a student has a documented disability and requires accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, he/she should contact the Instructor via email as soon as possible and make this need known. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY. Please contact the Service for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office as soon as possible to have them advance the paperwork to the instructor in a timely manner.

Technical Difficulties

As this is an online course, all of your assignments and correspondence will be taking place online. Blackboard can be accessed from any device connected to the Internet, and for this reason technical difficulties will not result in an excused late assignment. For any technical issues that you may have with Blackboard, you can contact tech support through either phone or email.

Blackboard Help Desk

- Phone: (402) 472-3970 (Monday-Friday, 7:30am -7:30pm)
- Email: mysupport@unl.edu
Academic Integrity

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has set education objectives that aim to maintain academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, submitting unoriginal work in whole or part, fabrication or falsification, abuse of academic materials, complicity in academic dishonesty, and falsifying grade reports. At minimum, any student found guilty of committing an act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade in this course and will be reported to the Chair of the Department of Sociology and the University Judicial Officer. However, further academic and disciplinary sanctions may also be applied.

In order to help protect against plagiarism, your media paper will be submitted through a portal in blackboard called Safe Assign. This program allows for the identification of materials that appear in other sources such as other student’s papers, online sources, articles, and textbooks.

If you are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty, please become familiar with UNL’s Student Code of Conduct and other policies: http://stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code

Personal Identities

Not all students go by their legal name, or feel that the information that is in Blackboard accurately portrays who they are. If you are unhappy with the name or pronouns that are provided in blackboard, please contact me to inform me of how you would like to be addressed. For instance, I go by Professor Ray, and my preferred pronouns are she/her.

Although this is less relevant in an online course, finding restrooms that are gender neutral can be an issue. I have attached a link that helps to locate these spaces on campus for anyone who is interested. http://involved.unl.edu/unl-gender-neutral-bathrooms

If there is anything that in unclear please feel free to contact me for clarification. I reserve the right to revise the syllabus.