

SYLLABUS

SOCL 3733-X20 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Spring 2026

Contact Information

PROFESSOR: Dr. Beverly L. Stiles

OFFICE: O'Donohoe, Rm 124

OFFICE HOURS:

- Mon. 11:00-12:00
- Tues 9:30-11:00
- Wed. 11:00-12:00
- Thurs.9:30-11:00
- Friday: By appointment

PHONE: 397-4019

EMAIL: Beverly.stiles@msutexas.edu

TEXT:

- Juvenile Delinquency: In a Diverse Society, by Kristin A. Bates and Richelle S. Swan. 4th Edition.
- Perhaps additional handout(s) that I'll provide

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore how and why juveniles break norms. Attention is devoted to the definitions, measurement, and correlates of juvenile delinquency. Additional focus is paid to the various theories and what each theory prescribes for preventing, treating, and handling juvenile delinquency.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- The student will explain the various theories and history of juvenile delinquency.
- The student will identify and explain the various methods of treatment and rehabilitation theories used on delinquents today as they relate to current theoretical explanations of delinquency and delinquency causation.
- The student will identify which theoretical explanations related to delinquency and delinquency causation are most apparent in today's literature.
- The student should understand the importance of prevention and early intervention.
- The student should understand the legal rights of juveniles in encounters with police.

EXAMS AND GRADING:

There will be three (3) exams, including the final. The final is not comprehensive. You will be using lockdown browser with Respondus Monitor. You must use a computer with a camera so that I can see what is on your desk. I am actually permitting you to use a text book (unless it is digital because nothing else can be

opened when taking an exam). If you use a digital text book, you can use only your notes when taking the exams. Sometimes those with paper texts choose to use their notes instead of the textbook. Either works, but not both. Just remember that you cannot have another phone or a second ipad or anything else with you when taking the exams. You also can't have anyone else in the room when you take the exam. Once you open the exam, your time starts and you will have 60 minutes to complete it.

Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. You will have 60 minutes for each exam, allotting for the extra 5 minutes to get situated with the lockdown browser. You cannot cheat since every student gets a different exam. There is a pool of questions randomly selected from a large bank of questions. The time allotted is not meant to provide you with time to use your books. Although, if you have read the material, I would expect that you will indeed have time to look up an answer or two, maybe more. However, if you haven't read and studied prior to the exam, you will find that you don't have time to finish. I do intend to add 10 points to your lowest exam grade, which often is the first exam since the first exam helps folks understand how a professor tests or how the person creating the test bank, constructs questions. I add the 10 points at the end when I am averaging grades by hand. However, if for any reason you miss an exam, I "MAY" permit you to retake it within a day that it was due, but only if there is valid proof of an excused absence. This is because, other than for the final exam you will have 3 days to schedule your exam, so do not wait until the last minute. The final exam must be taken on the Saturday after classes have ended. If I have permitted you to take a makeup exam, I do not add the 10 points to your lowest exam grade and I will deduct 10 points from your exam grade for taking it late (to be fair to those who took it on time).

PAPER

There is also a paper due at the end of the semester, worth 35 points. Actually, for this semester I am not going to make you write this paper. Instead, I'm just giving everyone the 35 points for it.

There are no makeup exams, so do not wait until the last minute to take the exam.

DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION:

You will also receive a grade for your Participation at the end of the semester (worth 100 points...5 points for each chapter's which equals 70 points). The paper is worth 30 points which means that together this is worth 100 points, equal to a test grade. This participation will be based on responses to the discussions that I post and the responses to your classmates post as well as what you read from the other students' postings (the D2L system does keep track of everything you do so I can keep track of this---it's really an amazing system). I will post one to three questions (sometimes 4) or other task for each chapter. I want actual dialogue here rather than simply responding by saying "I agree" or "I disagree." I want to see some thought put into your responses and some evidence of support for what

you say, from your chapter (it helps to use page #s for material referenced in your discussion replies). Please remember to be civil, provide each other with an open environment for discussing and disagreement, but be careful of the manner in which you do so. I will post discussion questions for each chapter (sometimes I do this a few days in advance for those who read ahead or so that students know what questions will have to be answered as they're reading the chapter). You are to post YOUR response to the questions by Friday night at 11:00 pm. Then you'll have until 11:00 pm Sunday to respond to 3 of your classmates' postings and to read the 4/5s postings. So, this is Friday through Sunday for each chapter. Please know that it is unfair for you to not post your initial posting on time. That doesn't give your classmates the opportunity to respond to your posting. I will also not give you full credit for postings if you don't post on time (see grading below). Remember that part of your participation grade is based on your READING the postings of the other students too.

GRADING for Participation:

The chapter discussions are graded according to the following (worth 5 points):

Plus 2 for posting your initial posting by due date by 11 pm *and* for responding to the postings of your classmates by Sunday night. You will get a zero if you only post your initial response but do not follow through and post all remaining responses. I'll deduct points if you do not post your initial response on Friday night as well (actually, you won't receive credit for your posting if you do not post it by Friday night).

Plus 1 for reading at least 4/5 (four-fifths) of all of the postings of your classmates by Sunday at 11 pm. (D2L keeps track of what you read)

Plus 2 for posting such that it is evident that you are drawing from material that you have read for the current chapter (quality). I don't want you to just spout off and reply or make statements without drawing from the text. If you draw from the text, tell me what in the text and using, a page # helps you and everyone else too.

Please recognize that because you have 4 postings, each is essentially worth one point. I look to see if it is posted on time and if it is a quality posting. If it is not a quality posting, you do not receive credit for it, even if it was on time. Just post quality postings on time and you'll receive the 4 points for them. The other point is given if you have read 4/5s of ALL of your classmate's postings for that chapter.

Grades

| EXAMS and Participation | GRADING |
|---|------------|
| Exam 1 | 100 points |
| Exam 2 | 100 points |
| Exam 3 (final—May 9 th or 10 th) | 100 points |
| Participation | 65 points |
| Paper | 35 points |
| May be 5 bonus points (not certain) | 5 points |

To average your grade, add up all points and divide by 4. Notice that the participation and paper equal 100 (same as a test grade).

Grades will be determined by the following scale:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = below 60

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Office of Disability Accommodation. The telephone number is 397-4140.

Exam Content

- Exam 1 (Sun Mar.22 through Mar.3 at 11:00 PM)
 - Chap. 1 Thinking About Juvenile Delinquency in a diverse society
 - Chap. 2 The Creation of Delinquency
 - Chap. 3 Understanding Delinquency
 - Chap. 4 Micro-Level Theories
 - Chap. 5 Macro-Level Theories
 - Chap. 6 Critical Theories
- Exam 2 (Sun April 12th through April 14 at 11:00 PM)
 - Chap. 7 Families in Context
 - Chap. 8 Schools in Context
 - Chap. 9 Peers and Gangs in Context
 - Chap.10 Drugs in Context
- Exam 3 (Sat. May 9th through May10th at 11:00 PM)
 - Chap. 12 and 13 policing and the Juvenile Court
 - Chap. 14 Juvenile Corrections
 - Chap. 15 Prev., Rehab., and Restorative Approaches to Delinquency