sociology 4141 - juvenile delinquency – spring 2016

Logic of the Course
This course offers an overview of sociological theory and research on juvenile delinquency. We start by critically examining the social facts surrounding the measurement, extent, and distribution of delinquency. Next, we study the principal sociological explanations of delinquent behavior. These theories provide conceptual tools for analyzing monographs detailing delinquency among groups such as gang members. Throughout, we analyze the success or failure of key programs implemented in attempts to reduce delinquency.

Objectives of the Course
- To understand how delinquency is currently measured and the extent and distribution of delinquent behavior according to these measures.
- To gain a working knowledge of the key sociological theories of delinquency.
- To apply the conceptual tools of these theories to selected case studies.
- To critically evaluate concrete policy responses to delinquency.

Required Texts (at bookstore or widely available on amazon, etc.)
- CWB. Cullen, Francis T., John Paul Wright, and Kristie R. Blevins (editors). 2008. Taking Stock: The Status of Criminological Theory. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction. [$41 on amazon, $32 Kindle]. By now, many of you have a working knowledge of delinquency theories. This edited collection provides a clear assessment of the evidence confirming or disconfirming them. It is difficult reading, but the authors are first-rate experts.

Recommended Text (a good general reference for those feeling lost)

Course Requirements
10% Active class participation. Come to lecture prepared to discuss the day’s readings.
10% Short exercises. Group discussion write-ups, visits, and short individual assignments.
25% Midterm examination. The extent and distribution of delinquency, sociological theories of delinquency, and their application to particular scenarios.
25% Working paper or service learning option. (1) Ungen’s 8-10-page paper assignment or (2) a 3-5-page paper based on service learning experiences, or (3) an article-length research paper or grant proposal on a topic negotiated with the professor and teaching assistant.
30% Final examination. This exam is cumulative, but focuses on connecting sociological theories with efforts to prevent and control delinquency.

Additional Honors Expectations
1. Meet with me as a group at least 3 times outside of regular course time (time TBD).
2. Submit an honors paper (expanded version of one of the working paper options).
3. Sign up and prepare 3-4 discussion questions in advance of at least one class session. These will be included in my weekly email to all students.
4. Work with Ungen and TA Stephen Wulff on other small leadership tasks (class discussion, paper exchange, tour).
5. Write two brief (1-page) clippings on crime news, or a two-page critique of a class reading (the reviews in the CWB book would be especially good for this), or another short writing assignment negotiated.
6. Sign up, prepare, and visit one presentation, workshop, or seminar on a related topic.

Course Policies and Friendly Reminders
• Late assignments/missed exams. Assignments, exams, and readings should be completed by the beginning of class on their due date. Late work is penalized 10% per day. Please document any family or medical emergency and notify the professor and TA before class via email.
• Class notes. If you must miss class, copy the notes from one of your classmates. Then see the TA or professor to clarify anything you do not understand. We will also make PowerPoint outlines available online at www.soc.umn.edu/~uggen/4141.htm
• Grading. At the end of the semester, I compute a total score for each student (for example, 83.5 out of 100 possible points). I then make cut-points for the grades based on the class distribution of scores. I try to ensure that students who do all the reading, attend the lectures, and participate actively can generally earn grades of B or better in my classes. Blowing off readings or lectures is almost certain to hurt your grade.
• Attendance. We will not be taking attendance in class, but missing lecture more than once is likely to compromise your participation grade.
• Reading. This is a reading-intensive upper-division course. You should read and understand about 100 tough pages weekly (before the appropriate lecture). The readings are not typically repeated in lecture and the lectures are not duplicated in the readings.
• Offensive material. Juvenile delinquency involves behaviors ranging from minor deviance to severe crime. In this course, healthy, well-adjusted students may encounter language, depictions, or attitudes that they find disturbing or offensive. Please see the teaching assistant or professor to discuss any concerns you have with course materials.

• Plagiarism/academic misconduct. You do not need to cheat. You do not want to cheat. Very bad things will happen if you cheat. Do not cheat.

• Teaching philosophy and department policies (attached).

PART I: EXTENT AND NATURE OF DELINQUENCY

Week 1 – 01/20

A. Introduction: Welcome and Data Collection
   Self-Report Survey and Note cards; Optional service learning
   • CWB Introduction, pp. 1-34.
   • Rios, Preface, pp. vii-xvi.

B. Defining and Measuring Delinquency

Week 2 – 01/27 [Service Learning and Careers]

A. Extent and Nature of Delinquency: Official Statistics

B. Extent and Nature: Self-Reports and Victimization

PART II. THEORIES OF DELINQUENCY

Week 3 – 02/03 Transition: From Correlates to Causal Models

A. Age, Careers, and the Life Course

B. Rational Choice and Deterrence
Week 4 – 02/10: Delinquent Association (*Angels with Dirty Faces*)

Week 5 – 02/17: Learning and Control Theories

A. **Social Psychological Theories: Differential Association**

B. **Social Psychological Theories: Social Control & Self Control**

Week 6 – 02/24: Labeling and Symbolic Interaction

A. **Labeling Theories and the Life Course**

B. **Summary and Review of Social-Psychological Theories & Data**

Week 7 – 03/02: Gangs, Neighborhoods, and Social Disorganization

A. **Gangs, Neighborhoods, and Social Disorganization**

B. **Social Structural Theories: Social Disorganization**
Week 8 -03/09  **Midterm Examination** covering material through 02/24

Week 9 – 03/23: Anomie and Individual-Level Strain Variants

A. **Social Structural Theories: Anomie**

B. **General Strain Theory**

   **NOTE: Midterm Evaluations**

Week 10 – 03/30: Critical Theories

   - **Note: this is the tentative date for our class tour of Red Wing correctional facility – details to follow**

A. **Social Structural Theories: Marxian and Conflict Theories**

B. **Gender, Social Structure, and Feminist Criminology**

**PART III: DELINQUENT CAREERS IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Week 11 – 04/06

A. **Prevention and Introduction to Juvenile Justice**

B. **The Juvenile Justice System and the “Gender Gap”**
Week 12 – 04/13
A. Police and the Juvenile Court

B. Paper Workshop
   Site Visit (exact day and time T.B.A.)

Week 13 – 04/20
A. Probation  *Papers Due at the Beginning of Class

B. Institutionalization

Week 14 – 04/27
A. Institutionalization and Conclusions

B. Class Discussion and Review

Week 15 – 05/04  Second Midterm Examination
Uggen’s Teaching Goals and Philosophy

1. Respect for Students.
   The other points are really a subset of this one. Education is a service industry, but you cannot simply purchase a unit of education the way you would buy other commodities. Instead, you must devote time and energy to learning. I respect those students who must make work, family, or other commitments their top priority. Nevertheless, to benefit from the class and to be rewarded with a high grade, you must find time to do the work.

2. Procedural Justice or Fairness.
   In my non-statistics classes, I typically grade exams and papers anonymously (by identification numbers rather than names) to avoid favoritism or other biases. Universal standards and strict deadlines are the best way I know to provide equal opportunities for all students.

   I reserve grades of A for outstanding work that engages course materials with original thought and creativity or a mastery of technical skills. You can receive a B by doing all of the work well and a C by meeting all course requirements.

4. Opportunities for Independent Work.
   All must meet the basic requirements. For those wishing to engage the material at the highest level, I allow flexibility for more ambitious projects.

5. Responsiveness and Accountability.
   You will have the opportunity to evaluate me and to critique the course in time for me to make changes that will benefit you. If you think I have failed to live up to the principles or philosophies here listed, please let me know about it.

6. Accessibility.
   I will be available to you during office hours and flexible in scheduling appointments outside these hours (including nights and weekends).

7. Openness to Diverse Perspectives.
   Sharing your experiences and understandings (publicly or privately) enriches the course for your fellow students, especially when you disagree with me.

8. Enthusiasm for the Subjects I Teach and for Teaching as a Vocation.
   I cannot expect you to really engage the course materials if I am bored with them. Therefore, I will make every effort to make the texts, lectures, and assignments current, relevant, and intellectually engaging.

9. Skills, Knowledge, and Attitudes.
   I teach: (1) technical and life skills that will benefit you inside and outside of the classroom; (2) abstract and concrete knowledge about the social world; and, (3) attitudes promoting the free and good-humored exchange of ideas.
Sociology 4141: Juvenile Delinquency (Uggen) Working Paper Assignment:  
Design/Refine a Program for the Prevention or Control of Juvenile Delinquency

Your goal is to design a program to prevent or control juvenile delinquency. My goal is to test your ability to merge theory and practice, but I sincerely hope the paper helps you pursue or develop your own career interests. Your double-spaced typed paper is due at the start of class on Wednesday April 20th. Drafts are due in class on Wednesday April 13th.

I. **Introduction** [1 paragraph]
   - Summarize the problem, target group, theoretical rationale, operations and goals for your program. It is usually easiest to write this part last, rather than first.

II. **Current State of Knowledge** [2 pages]
   - What do we know about the success of similar programs?
   - I want at least 5 academic sources (e.g. texts and journals). You may also cite government publications, program literature, and personal interviews with academics or practitioners.
   - Try to make a critical, unbiased evaluation of existing sources (Lundman provides a good example of the appropriate “tone”). Don’t “oversell” your approach.

III. **Theoretical Rationale of Your Program** [2 pages]
   - Summarize the delinquency theory your program is based upon in a paragraph or two. In your own words, explain how the theory works. You may draw on theories from social work, psychology, or elsewhere, but connect the ideas to the sociological theories in this class.
   - Note the *level of analysis* (e.g., individual, state) appropriate to the theory and program.
   - Explain how the theory *specifically* applies to the problem, program, and target group you are considering. How will you apply the theory’s conceptual tools in this program?
   - Flow diagrams or figures are helpful, but always discuss them in the text.

IV. **Program Narrative** [1 page]
   - Describe the program’s day-to-day operations in concrete terms. Each will vary, but you might discuss referral and outreach (where you find clients), eligibility requirements, site, duration, participating organizations, and other factors.

V. **Goals and Objectives** [1 page]
   - State measurable program outcomes (e.g. decrease unemployment rate; increase graduation rate, decrease self-reported delinquency, increase self-esteem).
   - [Grant applications have “administration” and “organization/management” sections outlining timetable, budget, personnel, etc. You needn’t include this, but are welcome to try!]

VI. **Evaluation and Conclusion** [1 page]
   - Outline a strategy to measure performance, or program results
   - Briefly summarize your proposal and make your final pitch for funding.

VII. **Bibliography** [1 page – with 5-10 decent sources referenced]
   - Credit all sources (names, dates, titles, page numbers, etc.) so I can easily find them.

NOTE: The polish is less important than your *ability to integrate abstract concepts with concrete reality*, but you must communicate clearly to make an effective proposal. You will be graded on clarity and the specificity and appropriateness of the literature and program design, as well as overall logic and internal consistency.
Sociology 4141: Juvenile Delinquency (Uggen) Service Learning Option: Reflect on Your Experiences (3-5 pages)

For those taking the service learning option, you need only write a short summary of your activities and bring course materials to bear on these experiences in some way. Fifty percent of your paper grade will thus be achieved by completion of the service learning. The other fifty percent is determined by a short, double-spaced typed paper due at the start of class on Wednesday April 13th (draft) and April 20th (final). Here is a suggested outline for this paper.

I. Service Learning Description [1 paragraph]
   o Describe what you did, where, when, and how you did it, and with whom.

II. Organization Goals and Challenges [1 page]
   o What is the organization trying to accomplish? Is this formally stated somewhere or something you simply picked up from other workers?
   o What barriers or challenges to success does the organization face? Try to cite specific incidents or examples.

III. Bring Course Materials to Bear on the Experience [1- 2 pages]
   o You have some choice here. You may discuss the “working theory” used by the organization (for example, a juvenile probation program may be based on deterrence theory or labeling theory) or its workers
   o You might also comment on how the agency’s practices may be consistent or inconsistent with social science research on delinquency.
   o You might note typical experiences and unexpected or atypical experiences that reveal something useful about how the organization operates.

IV. Evaluation and Conclusion [1 paragraph]
   o What did you think of your experience? Would you suggest any changes in how the organization operates?

For those who would like to write about their experiences in some other (non-service learning) program or agency, we ask that you add the following section between “organizational goals and challenges” and “bring course materials to bear on the experiences”:

2.5 Current State of Knowledge [2-3 pages]
   • What do we know about the success of similar programs?
   • I want at least 5 academic sources (e.g. texts and journals). You may also cite government publications, program literature, and personal interviews with academics or practitioners.
   • Try to make a critical, unbiased evaluation of existing sources (Lundman provides a good example of the appropriate “tone”). Don’t “oversell” your approach.

This addition should bring the paper to about 5-8 pages.
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS POLICY

GRADES: University academic achievement is graded under two systems: A-F (with pluses and minuses) and S-N. Choice of grading system and course level (1xxx/3xxx/4xxx) is indicated on the registration website; changes in grade scale may not be made after the second week of the semester. Some courses may be taken under only one system; limitations are identified in the course listings. The Department of Sociology requires A-F registration in courses required for the major/minor. University regulations prescribe the grades that will be reported on your transcript.

A Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements (4.00 grade points)
A- 3.67 grade points
B+ 3.33 grade points
B 2.67 grade points
B- 2.33 grade points
C+ 2.33 grade points
C Achievement that meets the basic course requirements in every respect (2.00 grade points)
C- 1.67 grade points
D+ 1.33 grade points
D Achievement worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements (1.00 grade point)
F Performance that fails to meet the basic course requirements (0 grade points)
S Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.
N No credit. Its use is now restricted to students not earning an S on the S-N grade base
I Incomplete, a temporary symbol assigned when the instructor has a "reasonable expectation" that you 1) can successfully complete unfinished work on your own no later than one year from the last day of classes and 2) believes that legitimate reasons exist to justify extending the deadline for course completion. The instructor may set date conditions for make-up work. If a course is not completed as prescribed or not made up as agreed within the year, the I will lapse to an F if registered on the A-F grade base or an N if registered on the S-N grade base.
W Official withdrawal from a course after the end of the second week of the semester. You must file a course cancellation request before the end of the sixth week of the semester to ensure that the W, rather than the F, will be formerly entered on your record.

FINAL EXAMS: As a student you are responsible for attending class and for ascertaining the particular attendance requirements for each class or department. You should also learn each instructor's policies concerning make-up for work for absences. Instructors and students may consult the CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures Handbook for more information on these policies (http://advisingtools.class.umn.edu/cgep/).

CLASS ATTENDANCE: As a CLA student, you are responsible for attending class and for ascertaining the particular attendance requirements for each class or department. You should also learn each instructor's policies concerning make-up work for absences. Instructors and students may consult the CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures Handbook for more information on these policies (http://advisingtools.class.umn.edu/cgep/).

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: You are entitled to a good learning environment in the classroom. Students whose behavior is disruptive either to the instructor or to other students will be asked to leave (the policies regarding student conduct are outlined in the CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures on-line at http://advisingtools.class.umn.edu/cgep/).

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: University instructors may restrict or prohibit the use of personal electronic devices in his or her classroom, lab, or any other instructional setting. For the complete policy, visit: http://policy.umn.edu/education/studentresp

SCHOLASTIC CONDUCT: The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. Students cannot evade (intentionally or unintentionally) a grade sanction by withdrawing from a course before or after the misconduct charge is reported. This also applies to late withdrawals, including discretionary late cancellation (also known as the "one-time-only drop"). For the complete policy, visit: http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND STRESS MANAGEMENT: As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu/.
GRADE INFORMATION: Grades are due in the Office the Registrar within 3 business days after the final examination. No information regarding grades will be released by the department office staff to anyone except designated personnel in Records and college offices. Students may access their own grades through their computer account. They may do this by following the directions on the One Stop website at http://onestop.umn.edu/.

INCOMPLETES: It is the instructor's responsibility to specify conditions under which an Incomplete (I) grade is assigned. Students should refer to the course syllabus and talk with the instructor as early as possible if they anticipate not completing the course work. Coursework submitted after the final examination will generally be evaluated down unless prior arrangements are made in writing by the instructor. University policy states that if completion of the work requires the student to attend class in substantial part a second time, assigning an “I” grade is NOT appropriate. Incompletes are appropriate only if the student can make up the coursework independently with the same professor.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS: Arrangements for special examinations must be made directly with the instructor who taught the course and who is responsible for approving and supervising the examination or making individual arrangements. Circumstances for missing an exam include, but are not necessarily limited to: verified illness, participation in athletic events or other group activities sponsored by the University, serious family emergencies, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, and religious observances. It is the responsibility of the student to notify faculty members of such circumstances as far in advance as possible.

GRADE CHANGES: Grades properly arrived at are not subject to renegotiation unless all students in the class have similar opportunities. Students have the right to check for possible clerical errors in the assignment of grades by checking with the instructor and/or teaching assistant.

Students with justifiable complaints about grades or classroom procedures have recourse through well-established grievance procedures. You are expected to confer first with the course instructor. If no satisfactory solution is reached, the complaint should be presented in writing to the department Director of Undergraduate Studies or the Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising (909 Soc Sci). If these informal processes fail to reach a satisfactory resolution, other formal procedures for hearing and appeal can be invoked. See the departmental advisor in 923 Social Sciences to explore options.

DISABILITY SERVICES: Students with disabilities that affect their ability to participate fully in class or to meet all course requirements are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged. For more info contact Disability Resource Center in 180 McNamara.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: University policy prohibits sexual harassment as defined in the December 1998 policy statement, available at the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action. Questions or concerns about sexual harassment should be directed to this office in 419 Morrill Hall.

SOCIOLOGY PROGRAMS INFORMATION: The Sociology Department offers two options for the Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science degree. We also have an Honors Program. Students interested in majoring in Sociology should view the online-information session about the major. Further information can be obtained from the following persons and offices or online at http://cla.umn.edu/sociology

General information, Sociology Department, 909 Social Sciences - 624-4300
Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising, Bobby Bryant, 923 Social Sciences – 624-4300
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Kathy Hull, 1131 Social Sciences - 624-4339
Sociology Honors Advisor, Professor Joachim Savelsberg, 1144 Social Sciences - 624-0273
Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Ann Meier, 1074 Social Sciences – 624-9828 and/or
Graduate Program Associate, Becky Drasin, 927 Social Sciences - 624-2093

Undergraduate jobs, internships, volunteer and research opportunities, scholarships, and much more can be found in the Undergraduate Resources site - https://sociologyundergrad.wordpress.com/