

CRJ 761
Youth Crime and Delinquency Control
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Fall, 2007
Dr. Robert Garot

Class Meeting Time: Tuesday, 4:15
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 11 to 12 or by appointment

Youth crime and delinquency control is subject to more media and political hype than perhaps any other topic, and its study lies at the origins of the sociological enterprise. This course will begin with an exploration of the conditions that generate delinquency, and then we will explore the legal practices intended to control it, especially focusing on the interaction between the police and adolescents.

The idea is to foster an intense, searching class discussion. A great deal of learning happens in discussion, when one's new ideas, guesses, hunches, ideological convictions, and moral persuasions rub unexpectedly up against others'. I will assist this process through my questioning in class, and want you to have challenged each reading so that you, in turn, can be challenged by others in class.

Please feel free to discuss topics further with me before class, or after class by appointment. *Be sure to exchange phone numbers with two or three other students and form study groups.*

Requirements

Students will be required to complete one take-home midterm exam (30%), summarize and critique the readings in class (20%), and write a term research paper (40%) which will be presented to the class towards the end of the semester (10%).

Required Books

Anderson, Elijah. 1999. Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner-City. New York: W.W. Norton.
Bernstein, Nell. 2005. All Alone in the World: Children of the Incarcerated. New York: The New Press.
Egley, Arlen Jr., Cheryl L. Maxson, Jody Miller and Malcolm W. Klein. 2006. *The Modern Gang Reader*, Third Edition. Los Angeles: Roxbury.
Ferguson, Ann Arnett. 2001. Bad Boys: Public Schools in the Making of Black Masculinity. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.
Hall, Stuart and Tony Jefferson. 2007 (or earlier editions) Resistance through rituals : youth subcultures in post-war Britain. London: Routledge.
Zimring, Franklin E. 2005. American Juvenile Justice. Oxford University Press.

The Final Paper

The final paper may be based on: 1) interviews with at least two professionals who work with juvenile delinquents, 2) participant observation of a setting which manages delinquents, for at least 5 hours per week, for weeks 2-14, 3) a critical literature review, or 4) a research proposal.

Calendar

Please note that the following schedule is tentative, and may change based on how quickly we cover the material. **Be sure to read the assigned materials prior to the day when they are assigned.**

Part I: Delinquency and Social Conditions

Week 1: An Ecology of Youth Violence (August 28th)

Miller, Walter. 1958. "Lower Class Culture as a Generating Milieu of Gang Delinquency." *Journal of Social Issues*. 14(3):5-19

Massey, Douglas S. 1995. "Getting Away with Murder: Segregation and Violent Crime in Urban America." *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* 143:1203-1232.

Sampson, Robert J. and William Julius Wilson. 1995. "Toward a Theory of Race, Crime, and Urban Inequality." Pp. 37-54 in *Crime and Inequality*, edited by John Hagan and Ruth D. Peterson. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Week 2: The Code of the Street (September 4th)

Anderson, Elijah. *The Code of the Street*.

Week 3: The Code of the Street Reconsidered (September 11th)

Benoit, E., Randolph, D., Dunlap, E., and Johnson, B. 2003. Code switching and inverse imitation among marijuana-using crack sellers. *British Journal of Criminology*, 43, 506-525.

Garot, Robert. 2007. "Non-Violence in the Inner-City: 'Decent' and 'Street' as Strategic Resources." *Journal of African American Studies*. 10(4).

Rosenfeld, Richard, Bruce A. Jacobs, and Richard Wright. 2003. "Snitching and the Code of the Street." *British Journal of Criminology*. 43(2):291-309.

Week 5: Families and Peers (September 25th)

Hall, Stuart and Tony Jefferson. 2007 (or earlier editions) *Resistance through rituals : youth subcultures in post-war Britain*. London: Routledge.

Read "Subcultures, Cultures and Class: A Theoretical Overview," pp. 9-74, plus any three of the remaining chapters, depending on your interest.

Week 6: Gangs and Community (October 2nd)

Katz, Jack. 2000. "The Gang Myth." Pp. 172-187 in *Social Dynamics of Crime and Control*, Susanne Karstedt and Kai-D Bussmann (Eds.). Oxford: Hart Publishing.

Sudhir A. Venkatesh 1997. "The Social Organization of Street Gang Activity in an Urban Ghetto." *American Journal of Sociology*. 103(1): 82-111

Dwight Conquergood. 1997. "Street Literacy." Pp. 354-375 in James Flood, Shirley Brice Heath and Diane Lapp (Eds.) *Handbook of Research on Teaching Literacy Through the Communicative and Visual Arts*. New York: Simon and Schuster MacMillan.

McCorckle, Richard C. and Terance D. Miethe. 1998. "The Political and Organizational Response to Gangs: An Examination of the 'Moral Panic' in Nevada." Justice Quarterly. 15(1):41-64.

Week 7: School Dramas and Resistance (October 9th)

Anderson, David C. 1998. "Curriculum, Culture and Community: The Challenge of School Violence." Pp. 317-363 in Schools, Violence and Society, Ed. by Michael Tonry and Mark H. Moore. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Matthews, Sarah H. 2003. "Counterfeit Classrooms: School Life of Inner-City Children." Sociological Studies of Children and Youth, 9:209-224.

McFarland, Daniel A. 2004. "Resistance as a Social Drama: A Study of Change-Oriented Encounters." American Journal of Sociology. 109(4):1249-1318.

Holloman, Lillian O., Velma Lapoint, Sylvan I Alleyne, Ruth J. Palmer, and Kathy Sanders-Phillips. "Dress-Related Behavioral Problems and Violence in the Public School Setting: Prevention, Intervention, and Policy—A Holistic Approach." Journal of Negro Education. 65(3):267-281.

Garot, Robert and Jack Katz. 2003. "'Provocative Looks: Gang Appearance and Dress Codes in and Inner-City Alternative School.'" Ethnography. 4(3):421-454.

Week 8: Labeling (October 16th)

Ferguson, Ann Arnett. 2001. Bad Boys: Public Schools in the Making of Black Masculinity. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.

Week 9: Edgework and Sensation Seeking (October 23rd)

Lyng, Stephen. 1990. "Edgework: A Social Psychological Analysis of Voluntary Risk Taking." American Journal of Sociology. 95(4):851-86.

Miller, William J. 2005. "Adolescents on the Edge: The Sensual Side of Delinquency." Pp. 153-172 in Edgework, Stephen Lyng (Ed.). New York: Routledge.

Farrington, David P. 1993. "Motivations for Conduct Disorder and Delinquency." Development and Psychopathology. 5(1-2):228-.

Garot, Robert. 2007. "Classroom Resistance as Edgework."

Take-home Mid-Term due October 30th

Part II: Legal Practices Intended to Control Delinquency

Week 10: Gangs in School II (October 30th)

Trump, Kenneth S. 1996. "Gangs and School Safety." Pp. 45-60 in Allan M. Hoffman Ed. Schools, Violence and Society. Westport, Conn.: Praeger.

Brotherton, David C. 1996. "The Contradictions of Suppression: Notes from a Study of Approaches to Gangs in Three Public High Schools." The Urban Review. 28(2):95-117.

Gottfredson, Gary D. and Denise C. Gottfredson. 2006. "Gang Problems and Gang Programs in a National Sample of Schools: Summary." Chapter 30 in *The Modern Gang Reader*.

Esbensen, Finn-Aage. 2006. "The National Evaluation of the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program." Chapter 31 in *The Modern Gang Reader*.

Week 11: Policing Juveniles (November 6th)

- Meehan, Albert J. 1986. "Record-Keeping Practices in the Policing of Juveniles." Urban Life. 15(1):70-102.
- Meehan, Albert J. 1993. "Internal Police Records and the Control of Juveniles: Politics and Policing in a Suburban Town." British Journal of Criminology, 33, 4, autumn, 504-524.
- Meehan, Albert J. 2000. "The Organizational Career of Gang Statistics." The Sociological Quarterly. 41(3):337-370.
- Webb, Vincent J. and Charles M. Katz. 2006. "A Study of Police Gang Units in Six Cities." Chapter 29 in *The Modern Gang Reader*.

Week 12: Police and Race (November 13th)

- Meehan, Albert; Ponder, Michael C. 2002. "Race and Place: The Ecology of Racial Profiling African American Motorists." Justice Quarterly, 2002, 19, 3, Sept, 399-430.
- Brunson, Rod K. and Jody Miller. 2006. "Young Black Men and Urban Policing in the United States." British Journal of Criminology. 46:613-640.
- Wordes, Madeline; Bynum, Timothy S. 1995. "Policing Juveniles: Is There Bias against Youths of Color?" Pp. 47-65 in Minorities In Juvenile Justice, Leonard, Kimberly Kempf, Pope, Carl E., & Feyerherm, William H. [Eds], Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.
- Allen, Terrence T. 2005. "Taking a Juvenile into Custody: Situational Factors That Influence Police Officers' Decisions." Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare. 32(2):121-129.
- Conley, D J. 1994. "Adding color to a black and white picture: Using qualitative data to explain racial disproportionality in the juvenile justice system." Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, 31(2):135-148.

Week 13: Youth Jurisprudence (November 15th—Place and time to be announced)

- Zimring, Franklin E. 2005. American Juvenile Justice. Oxford University Press. (Part III optional)

Week 14: Juveniles and Prison (November 27th)

- Nurse, Anne M. 2001. "The Structure of the Juvenile Prison: Constructing the Inmate Father." Youth and Society. 32(3):360-394.
- Wordes, M T. 1994. "Locking up youth : The impact of race on detention decisions." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 31:149-165.
- Bernstein, Nell. 2005. All Alone in the World: Children of the Incarcerated. New York: The New Press.

Week 15: Programs and Policies (December 4th)

- Fearn, Noelle E., Scott H. Decker, and G. David Curry. 2006. "Public Policy Responses to Gangs: Evaluating the Outcomes." Chapter 26 in *The Modern Gang Reader*.
- Fremon, Celeste. 2006. G-Dog and the Homeboys. Chapter 27 in *The Modern Gang Reader*.
- Braga, Anthony A., David M. Kennedy, and George E. Tita. 2006. "New Approaches to the Strategic Prevention of Gang and Group-Involved Violence." Chapter 28 in *The Modern Gang Reader*.
- Bjerregaard, Beth. 2006. "Antigang Legislation and Its Potential Impact: The Promises and the Pitfalls." Chapter 32 in *The Modern Gang Reader*.

Maxson, Cheryl L., Karen Hennigan, and David C. Sloane. "For the Sake of the Neighborhood? Civil Gang Injunctions as a Gang Intervention Tool in Southern California." Chapter 33 in *The Modern Gang Reader*.

December 11th: Final Papers Due; Class Presentations