

**GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Youth Culture and Crime – CJ 355(02)**  
**Winter 2016**

Professor: Ms. Stacy McGinnis  
Office Phone: (616) 632-5774  
E-Mail: [mcginnst@gvsu.edu](mailto:mcginnst@gvsu.edu)

Days class Meets: Mondays  
Time class Meets: 6:00 – 8:50pm  
Location of class: EC 514

**Course Description:**

This course offers an interdisciplinary approach to exploring youth culture and crime. We will first consider the social construction of youth as criminals, notion of youth wilding,” and the perceptions of youth in society today. We will then focus on theoretical explanations and empirical studies that seek to explain the causes of youth criminality and deviance. The overarching themes of the course will address youth culture and crime in context and how social forces as well as formal and informal organizations influence, respond to, and seek to prevent juvenile crime.

**Course Goals and Objectives:**

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to

1. Understand youth culture as a local and global phenomenon and its relation to a “youth-centered” perspective.
2. Understand and be able to critique how youth crime is defined and measured
3. Apply theories that explore the nature of youth crime (including both individual and social causes).
4. Explain the social context of youth including the family, neighborhoods, schools, gangs and the juvenile justice system.
5. Understand and apply approaches to preventing and addressing youth crime.

**Required Text**

\*Regoli, Hewitt, and Delisi. 2010. *Delinquency in Society: The Essentials*. Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC.

\*Supplemental Readings will be supplied by the instructor.

**Learning Experiences:**

Lectures, assigned readings, class discussions, experiential activities, case studies, videotapes, guest speakers, individual essay paper and in-class group assignments will constitute the major learning experiences in this course.

WEEK	CLASS	TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS DUE
------	-------	----------------------------

## Course Requirements

Students are expected to read the required readings prior to each class session, to attend class, to participate in class discussion and group activities, and to satisfactorily complete the written assignments. Students are also required to attend the detention tour scheduled on February 22, 2016 at the normal classroom time.

## Methods of Evaluation:

There will be 8 in-class assignments throughout the course of the semester. Each assignment is worth 25 points. Since these are in-class assignments you must complete them in class in order to potentially receive full credit. If you contact the professor prior to class of an absence, if excused, you may be allowed to individually make-up the assignment for a maximum of 15 points. This exception will only be allowed 1 time throughout the course of the semester. If absent more than once, you will NOT be allowed to make up the in-class assignments. No exceptions. (200 points)

Quiz = 50 points

Midterm Exam = 100 points

Final Exam = 100 points

Writing Assignment (paper) = 50 points

Students will complete a 3-4 page paper related to a documentary presented in class. The paper must be typed, doubled-spaced; (12 point font and Arial, with 1 inch margins)

Grading Policy: Please expect to receive the grade that you have earned. If you feel your grade (either on an assignment or your final grade for the semester) has been reached in error, please submit **in writing** your explanation of how/why you believe an error has been made. I will be happy to review any concerns regarding your grades **prior to the final exam week**. Please do not email me and ask for me to “round up your grade” – I make this decision based upon academic performance, attendance and classroom participation throughout the semester.

A = 480 - 500	B = 405 - 429	C = 330 - 354	D = 255 - 279
A- = 455 - 479	B- = 380 - 404	C- = 305 - 329	F = 254 and under
B+ = 430 - 454	C+ = 355 - 379	D+ = 280 - 304	

1	January 11, 2016	Introduction to the course/Syllabus Understanding & Defining Youth Culture & Crime <b>Reading(s) Chapter 1,2</b>
2	January 18, 2016	No Class – MLK Day <b>Readings(s) Chapter 3</b>
3	January 25, 2016	Measuring Delinquency, Disproportionate representation Delinquency theories/ Mental Health <b>Reading(s) Chapter 7</b>
4	February 1, 2016	The Family and Delinquency <b>Article/ In-class assignment</b> <b>Reading(s) Chapter 5 &amp; 6</b>
5	February 8, 2016	School & Delinquency; Bullying; Sex Trafficking. <b>Video/Article/Review/ Quiz</b> <b>Reading(s) Ch. 8</b>
6	February 15, 2016	Sociological & Development Theories (Stereotypes/ Labelling) <b>Article/Video/In-class assignment</b>
7	<b>February 22, 2016</b>	<b>CLASS WILL BE HELD AT KENT COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION Tour; Review for Mid-term test (Study for Mid-term). In-class assignment</b>
8	February 29, 2016  March 7, 2016	<b>Mid-term Exam (worth 100 points)</b>  <b>Spring Break</b>
9	March 14, 2016	Documentary <b>Discuss Essay assignment. (Worth 50 points) Due on 3/28/16</b> <b>Reading(s) Chapter 9</b>
10	March 21, 2016	Violence, Drug Use & Delinquency <b>Article/Video/ In-class assignment</b> <b>Reading(s) Chapter 10</b>
11	March 28, 2016	Gangs & Delinquency <b>Guest Speaker (In-class assignment) <u>Papers Due</u></b> <b>Reading(s) Chapter 11</b>
12	April 4, 2016	Police & Delinquency <b>Video/Article/Speaker (In-class assignment)</b> <b>Reading(s) Chapter 12</b>
13	April 11, 2016	The Juvenile Court <b>Video/Article/ In-class assignment</b> <b>Reading(s) Chapter 13, 14</b>
14	April 18, 2016	Juvenile Corrections/Delinquency Prevention <b>Video/Article/ In-class assignment</b> <b>Study for Final Exam</b>
15	April 25,2016	<b>Final Exam!! (Worth 100 points)</b>

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Assumed by GVSU and this professor, is that each student possesses an exceptional level of academic integrity. Section 223.00 & 223.01 of the *Student Code 2011-12* are reproduced below for your reference.

### **SECTION 223.00 INTEGRITY OF SCHOLARSHIP AND GRADES**

Truth and Honesty. The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing protect the validity of University grades. This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid of any kind. Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in the planning and supervision of academic work, so that honest effort will be positively encouraged. Compliance shall include compliance with the following specific rules:

- a) No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
- b) No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
- c) No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
- d) No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his/her own.
- e) No student shall submit work that has been previously graded, or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course, without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it .

### **Section 223.01: PLAGIARISM**

Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches or the writings of others students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment also is considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.

### **DISABILITY-RELATED ACCOMODATIONS**

If you have a need for disability-related accommodations, please inform me and the Office of Academic Support at 240 STU (895-2490). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if the requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation in accordance with federal, state, and university guidelines

**CELL PHONES ARE TO BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS PERIOD UNLESS YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND HAVE ALERTED ME TO YOUR CONCERN.**

**DURING EXAMINATIONS PERIODS YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE ROOM**

