

ADOLESCENTS, CRIME AND JUSTICE (195.685)
Institute for Policy Studies – Fall Semester, 2006-07

Primary Instructor: Dr. David Altschuler

Class Time: Wednesday, 9:00-11:30am

Office Hours: By Appointment (dma@jhu.edu)
Wyman 548

Units: 3 Credits

Description: Should adolescents who “break the law” be punished and held accountable or be provided services and treatment; is it possible to pursue all these objectives; how should adolescent drug use be handled; does the age of an offender matter in terms of how the police, prosecution, judiciary, and corrections respond; what justifies the detention or incarceration of adolescents; what should be the purpose of “confinement” and how should “reentry” figure in; should adolescents who commit particular crimes be subject to capital punishment; and what should be done about adolescents who have gang involvement? These are some of the public policy questions that will be examined and debated.

Requirements: The course will include lecture and discussion. Students are expected to attend all classes, read the assigned material in preparation for each class meeting, prepare two questions raised by the readings for each class meeting, participate in class discussion, and complete two writing assignments.

The course will be graded on a pass/fail basis. A passing grade requires a minimum of satisfactory performance on all requirements. There are two writing assignments. Due on **November 8th** is a position brief that should be a maximum of 10 double-spaced (12-point font) pages. There are widely divergent views on how to respond to adolescents who commit crime. Underlying the differing perspectives are assumptions and values regarding circumstances such as age of offender, developmental stage and social-psychological factors, competency, blameworthiness, motivation, remorsefulness, the nature of the crime and offense history, and so forth. Given the course readings, other research materials you obtain and classroom discussion, students are to prepare a position brief making a case for an appropriate justice system response to crime committed by adolescents. The brief **MUST** incorporate your reasoning for the position you take and the factual basis supporting your assumptions and position. The factual basis must include substantiation that can be drawn from class readings, other research and classroom discussions. Citations and references supporting your position are required and do not count toward the 10-page maximum. Finally, you must identify briefly the major line of criticism that would likely be raised by those who hold a contrasting view.

Due on **December 6** is a Letter-To-The-Editor that offers your reaction to an Op-Ed column that appeared in The Washington Post on February 11, 2006. It was written by a research psychologist at UCLA and is entitled “Reinventing Criminal Justice.” Your letter should be a maximum of 2 double-spaced (12-point font) pages in which you outline your reaction, explaining your position, reasoning and factual basis.

Due at the **start of every class** meeting (except September 13) are two written discussion questions that you submit to the instructor. Some of the questions will be used to spur class discussion and debate. If a student’s question is selected for discussion, he or she will be responsible for moderating the discussion of the question.

Readings:

September 13/September 20 *EXTENT AND NATURE OF JUVENILE CRIME*

National Research Council & Institute of Medicine. (2001). *Juvenile Crime, Juvenile Justice*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press. Chapter 2, Patterns and Trends in Juvenile Crime and Juvenile Justice (pp. 25-65).

Snyder, H.N. & Sickmund, M. (2006). *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Chapter 3, Juvenile Offenders (pp. 63-92) and Chapter 5, Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime (pp. 121-153).

Howell, J.C. (1997). *Juvenile Justice & Youth Violence*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. Chapter 4, Juvenile Delinquency Trends and Juvenile Justice System Responses (pp. 65-79 only).

Howell, J.C. (2003). *Preventing & Reducing Juvenile Delinquency: A Comprehensive Framework*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. Chapter 1, Serious and Violent Juvenile Delinquency Trends and Unique Features of Juvenile Violence (pp. 3-14).

September 27 *HISTORICAL AND CONCEPTUAL PERSPECTIVES FROM PAST TO PRESENT*

Howell, J.C. (1997). *Juvenile Justice & Youth Violence*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. Chapter 1, Juvenile Reform Movements (pp. 3-23).

Empey, L.T. & Stafford, M.C. (1991). *American Delinquency: Its Meaning and Construction (3rd ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. Chapter 4, The Invention of Delinquency (pp. 71-96).

September 28 *HISTORICAL AND CONCEPTUAL (Con't)*

Sullivan, M.L. (1993, 3rd Printing). *Getting Paid: Youth Crime and Work in the Inner City*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Chapter 10, Youth Crime and Social Theory (pp. 214-250).

Altschuler, D.M. (Forthcoming). Prisons for Youth. In M.E. Laur (Ed.), *The Chicago Companion to the Child*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

EXTENT AND NATURE OF JUSTICE SYSTEM RESPONSES

National Research Council & Institute of Medicine. (2001). *Juvenile Crime, Juvenile Justice*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press. Chapter 5, The Juvenile Justice System (pp. 154-227).

October 18 *EXTENT AND NATURE (Con't)*

Snyder, H.N. & Sickmund, M. (2006). *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Chapter 4, Juvenile Justice System Structure and Process (pp. 93-120) and Chapter 6, Juvenile Offenders In Court (pp. 155-194).

Howell, J.C. (1997). *Juvenile Justice & Youth Violence*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. Chapter 2, Landmark Federal Legislation (pp. 24-46).

Steinberg, L. (2000). Should Juvenile Offenders Be Tried As Adults? A Developmental Perspective on Changing Legal Policies. Unpublished Paper, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice.

October 20 *ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT*

Chung, H.L., Little, M. & Steinberg, L. (2005). The Transition to Adulthood for Adolescents in the Juvenile Justice System: A Developmental Perspective. In D.W. Osgood, E.M. Foster, C. Flanagan & R.R. Gretchen (Eds.), *On Your Own Without a Net: The Transition to Adulthood for Vulnerable Populations* (pp. 68-91). Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Altschuler, D.M. & Brash, R. (2004). Adolescent and Teenage Offenders Confronting the Challenges and Opportunities of Reentry. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 2(1), 72-87.

October 25 *REENTRY*

Mears, D.P. & Travis, J. (2004). Youth Development and Reentry. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 2(1), 3-20.

Altschuler, D.M. & Armstrong, T.L. (2001). Reintegrating High-Risk Juvenile Offenders into Communities: Experiences and Prospects. *Corrections Management Quarterly*, 5(3), 72-88.

November 1 *REENTRY (Con't)*

Altschuler, D.M. (2005). Policy and Program Perspectives on the Transition to Adulthood for Adolescents in the Juvenile Justice System. In D.W. Osgood, E.M. Foster, C. Flanagan & R.R. Gretchen (Eds.), *On Your Own Without a Net: The Transition to Adulthood for Vulnerable Populations* (pp. 92-113). Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Altschuler, D.M. (2005). Juvenile Offender Reentry: Transforming Secure Care and Aftercare Into Continuity of Care. In R.E. DeComo & R. Wiebush (Eds.), *Graduated Sanctions for Juvenile Offenders, Volume II: A Program Model and Planning Guide – Dispositional Court Hearing to Case Closure* (pp. 55-67). Reno: National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges, Juvenile Sanctions Center.

NOVEMBER 8 *REENTRY (Con't)*
(Position Brief Due)

Altschuler, D.M., Armstrong, T.L., & MacKenzie, D.L. (1999). Reintegration, Supervised Release and Intensive Aftercare. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Gies, S.V. (2003). Aftercare Services. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

NOVEMBER 15 *DRUGS AND CRIME*

Office of National Drug Control Policy. (June 2003). *Fact Sheet: Juveniles and Drugs*. (www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications).

_____. (2004). *Drug Facts: Juveniles and Drugs*. (www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/juveniles).

_____. (2004). *Drug Facts: Minorities and Drugs*. (www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/minorities).

_____. (2002). *Drug Use Trends*.
www.whitehousedrugpolicy/publications).

Butts, J.A. & Roman, J. (2004). Drug Courts in the Juvenile Justice System. In J.A. Butts & J. Roman (Eds.), *Juvenile Drug Courts and Teen Substance Abuse* (pp. 1-26). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press.

NOVEMBER 22 *DRUGS AND CRIME (Con't)*

Muck, R., Zempolich, K.A., Titus, J.C., Fishman, M., Godley, M.D. & Schwebel, R. (2001). An Overview of the Effectiveness of Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Models. *Youth & Society*, 33(2), 143-168.

Altschuler, D.M. & Brounstein, P.J. (1991). Patterns of Drug Use, Drug Trafficking, and Other Delinquency Among Inner-City Adolescent Males in Washington, DC. *Criminology*, 29(4), 589-622.

NOVEMBER 29 *GANGS*

Howell, J.C. (2003).). *Preventing & Reducing Juvenile Delinquency: A Comprehensive Framework*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. Chapter 5, Youth Gang Members as Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offenders (pp. 75-102).

Thornberry, T. (1998). Membership in Youth Gangs and Involvement in Serious and Violent Offending. In R. Loeber & D. Farrington (Eds.), *Serious and Violent Juvenile Offenders: Risk Factors and Successful Interventions* (pp. 147-166).

DECEMBER 6 *DEATH PENALTY/COURSE WRAP UP*
(Letter-To-The-Editor Due)

Roper v. Simmons, 125 S.Ct. 1183 (2005).