

**Working With Youth Gangs**  
**Summer 2000**  
**The School of Social Work**  
**The University of Texas at Austin**

Instructors	Michael Lauderdale, PhD Clara Pope Willoughby Centennial Professor of Criminal Justice in Social Work Email: mll@mail.utexas.edu Judy Briscoe, MA Email: jbriscoe@io.com	Room: SSW 2.116 SWf360K/94945 and SW393U Time: 8:30-10:30am MTW&Th Office: SWB 3.113J, 471-9246  Office: SWB 3.106E, 471-5455 Office Hours: 11-1 M&T
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**Resources:**

Email	<a href="mailto:mll@mail.utexas.edu">mll@mail.utexas.edu</a> <a href="mailto:jbriscoe@io.com">jbriscoe@io.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.survey.utexas.edu">http://www.survey.utexas.edu</a>

**Course Objectives**

Examine the relative incidence of gangs among youth  
Examine the relations between adolescent self-development, the role of peer groups and the influence of peer culture  
Understand new approaches being used by police, prosecutors, community groups and the schools to prevent the development of gangs  
Overview conceptual material and direct contact with community programs to work with gangs and gang prevention  
Review current research and policy issues in dealing with gang activity in Austin  
Orientation to various roles for working with youth  
Examine alternative approaches for working with gang members

**Course Texts**

Sheldon, Randall G., Tracy, Sharon K., and Brown, William B. (2001) *Youth Gangs in American Society*. Belmont, California: Wadsworth.

Wooden, Wayne S. (2001) *Renegade Kids, Suburban Outlaws*. Belmont, California: Wadsworth.

Additional readings as assigned. Daily use of the Internet is a class requirement.

**Basis for Grades and Dates of Exams and Papers**

Participation	20%	Daily Attendance, Preparation, and Participation
Presentation of Paper + Final Paper	45%	Thursday, July 6, Monday, July 10-Tuesday, July 11 Due Wednesday, July 12
Final Exam	35%	Wednesday, July 12

### Class Schedule

Month	Day	Date	Topic	Readings
June	Wed	6	Introduction to course, Overview of Youth Gangs in American Society	Handouts
	Thurs	7	Gang properties and characteristics: Who belongs to gangs, what function do they serve for individuals, how are they alike and different from other youth associations	Shelden, et al: Chapter 1, 2, 3 Wooden: Introduction
	Mon	11	Neighborhood approaches to dealing with gangs, gangs among middle-class youth	Wooden: Chapter 2, 3, 4
	Tues	12	Ties between the neighborhood, larger gang entities and issues such as the drug trade, protection, and prison	Shelden, et al: Chapter 4
	Wed	13	Gardner-Betts Juvenile Detention Facility <i>(Location: Gardner-Betts)</i>	Wooden: Chapter 5
	Thurs	14	Gangs in Austin: Commander R. Dahlstrom, APD <i>(Location: Central East Austin Substation)</i>	Wooden: Chapter 6
	Mon	18	The role of police leadership in building community support for youth: Officer Leslie York, APD Liaison to Austin Housing Authority	Shelden: Chapter 5
	Tues	19	Gangs in Austin Schools: Robert Mendoza and Juan Villa, AISD	Shelden: Chapter 6
	Wed	20	Youth Issues: Dr. Lauderdale	
	Thurs	21	Youth Issues: Dr. Lauderdale	

	Mon	25	Current approaches at community control: Wooden: Chapter 7 Judge Elisabeth Earle, Downtown Community Court	
	Tues	26	Community approaches at community control: Tricia Greene, Community Justice Project	Shelden: Chapter 7
	Wed	27	Current approaches at community control <i>(Location: Downtown Community Court)</i>	Shelden: Chapter 8
	Thurs	28	Working with felons and their families: The relation of adults and adult prison population to the world of teenage gangs: Asst. Warden Mark Bull	Wooden: Chapter 8, 9
July	Mon	2	Current approaches at community control: Jane Nethercut, Teacher at Lanier High School and Co-founder of Peaceworks	Wooden: Chapter 10
	Tues	3	Holiday	
	Wed	4	Austin Police Department, Gang Unit: Manuel Pena, Officers Ralph de la Fuente, Ray Brown	Shelden: 9
	Thurs	5	Class presentations	
	Mon	9	Class presentations	
	Tues	10	Class presentations	
	Wed	11	Final exam Final paper due	

### **Class Participation**

This class will consist of lectures, presentations from area leaders, and site visits to local organizations dealing with youth and youth gang issues. Class attendance and participation is required.

Tricia Greene will moderate a discussion group for the class and members are expected to participate in this Web-based group. You will be expected to post an article or reply on the DISCUSSION AREA each week. If you do not have home or work access to the web, you will need to arrange to use the University facilities at the School of Social Work. If you have any questions, call or email Judy Briscoe.

## **Directions for Using Class Website and Discussion Page**

Open Internet Explorer

In the address box, type in: [www.survey.utexas.edu](http://www.survey.utexas.edu)

Open AUSTIN COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM

Under the UNIVERSITY SECTION, click on Working With Youth Gangs, Summer 2001

Here, you can view the [class syllabus](#), [log-in](#) as a member of the class, and utilize the [class discussion group](#).

## **The Research Paper and Presentation**

Each student will prepare an empirical and theoretical paper between 10-20 pages double-spaced. References may include interviews and html sites on the World Wide Web. The paper is intended to show the student's ability to integrate relevant literature, presentations, and observations in Austin associated with the practicum experience during the course of the class. The paper is due at the end of the final class period (Wednesday, July 11, 2001). Please keep a copy of your paper, as papers will not be returned.

Each student will make an informal presentation of their paper to the class. Presentations will take place on Monday and Tuesday of the last week of class. Each should last 15-20 minutes.

### ***Paper Topics:***

History of an Austin Gang

History of Dove Springs (Southeast Austin)

Greek Life as a Gang Problem

Drugs as a Gang Issue

Gang Issues in Northeast Austin

Middle Class Gangs in Austin/Travis Co.

Gangs in Austin Schools

Gangs in Texas Prisons

Columbine as a Drug Issue

Gangs and the Drug Trade in Texas

Youth Initiatives in Austin/Travis Co. (choose one)