

Northwestern University  
GLA – Topics  
The Gang  
Spring 2006

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## THE GANG

This course explores the modern American urban street gang. It looks at the long sociological tradition of theory and research on such gangs, much of it conducted right here in Chicago. It looks at the structure and activities of such gangs and the response of local community institutions including the police, and national urban and criminal justice policy with respect to street gangs.

The primary structure of the course will be discussion of readings and related materials. I will begin each meeting with a brief lecture to set up and frame the topic for the day. Each of you will prepare weekly a 1 page typewritten set of comments on key points of the reading that will form a basis of discussion. These will be handed in and graded. In addition each of you will make two book reports during the quarter (3 pages each) on outside books or articles selected in consultation with me. Make sufficient copies to share with classmates. You will lead a brief discussion on the reports. Finally each of you will write a final term paper of approximately 8 pages on a topic of your choosing selected in consultation with me.

### Grades:

1 page weekly comments ..... 20%  
2 outside book reports..... 40%  
final paper (6-8 pages)..... 40%

### Books:

Martin Sanchez Jankowski – Islands in the Street: Gangs and American Urban Society.  
Berkeley,CA: U. of Cal Press. 1991.

Jody Miller, Cheryl L. Maxson, and Malcolm W. Klein, eds. The Modern Gang Reader.  
2<sup>nd</sup> ed. LA: Roxbury. 2001.

### Readings and Topics:

Week 1 – Introduction - The Urban Context  
3/28

Jankowski – Introduction  
Miller – 1- Defining and Researching Gangs

Week 2 - Theories of Gangs

4/4 Curry – Chapter 1 – Defining & Measuring the Prevalence of Gangs  
Jankowski – Chapter 1 – A Theory of Gang Behavior

Miller – 2 – History of Gang Research

Week 3 – Social Correlates of Gangs - Race, Class, Age, and Gender

4/11

Curry – Chapter 5 – Female Gang Involvement

Jankowski – Chapter – 6 – The Gang and the Community

Miller – 3 Barrio Gangs

9 Inside Freemont Hustlers

10 Race and Gender Differences

11 Female Gang Involvement

12 Chinese Gangs and Extortion

20 Gender and Victimization

Week 4 - Structure of Gangs

4/18

Jankowski – Chapter 3 – In the Organization

Curry - Chapter 4 – Gangs, Gang Members, and Drug Sales

Miller – 5. 1997 National Youth Gang Survey

6. Gang Members on Move

8. Tale of Two Cities

Week 5 – Gang Activities

4/25

Curry – Chapter 3 – The Gang Experience

Jankowski – Chapter 2 – Gang Involvement

Chapter 4 – Gang Business

Miller – 15. Membership in Youth Gangs

17. Street Gang Crime in Chicago

18. Drive-bys

19. Gun ownership

Week 6 – Drugs

5/2

Curry - Chapter 4 – Gangs, Gang Members, and Drug Sales

Jankowski - Chapter 4 – Gang Business

Miller – 13. The Working Gang

21. Drug Trafficking

Week 7 – Violence and Social Control of Gangs by Police

5/9

Curry – Chapter 2 – The Link Between Gangs and Crime

Jankowski – Chapter 5 – The Anatomy of Gang Violence

Chapter 8 – Gangs, Criminal Justice, and Public Order

Miller – 25. Tri-Agency Resource

27. Community Policing

Week 8 – Institutional Relationships and Response – schools, media, politics  
5/16

Curry – Chapter 6 – Gangs and Social Institutions  
Jankowski – Chapter 9 – The Media and Gangs  
Miller – 22 Gangs, Neighborhoods and Public Policy  
24. G.R.E.A.T.

Week 9 – Local and National Policy  
5/23

Curry – Chapter 7 – Responding to Gang Related Crime and Delinquency  
Jankowski - Chapter 7 – Gangs and Governments  
Miller – 26. Pulling Levers: Deterrence  
28. Civil Gang Abatement  
29. Public Policy Responses to Gangs

Week 10 – Gangs, The Future and Terror as a Way of Life  
5/30

Curry – Chapter 8 – Gang Theory and Policy  
Jankowski – Conclusion  
Miller – 7. Gangs in US & Europe  
14. Street Gangs and Skinheads

Week 11 - **\*\*\* Final Paper Due Monday 6/5**