

SOCIOLOGY OF THE URBAN STREET GANG



- How do social structures and organizations affect gang membership s?
- What are the consequences of long term gang membership on individuals?
- Why does an individual join a gang? How does one leave?

- Gangs are products of community social conditions and processes; they are often most prevalent in neighborhoods where other institutions breakdown. Stressing a sociological understanding of gangs, this course will provide an overview of research on gangs and theoretical perspectives of gang membership while paying close attention to the interplay of social structure — both specific gangs and specific neighborhoods — and the life-course of individual gang members. This class focuses on not only why a person might join a gang and the behaviors associated with street gang membership, but on the ability for gang-involved individuals to leave street gangs. By the end of the course students will have a solid foundation of theoretical perspectives on gang formation, persistence and desistance, and an opportunity to interview a former gang member.

For more info, contact Instructor John Leverso

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