

**JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND
JUVENILE JUSTICE
CJ 396
Spring 2008**



Class Meets: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 – 3:20 pm
Classroom: C110

Instructor: Jiletta L Kubena
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Office Hours: Tuesday, 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Thursday, 3:30 – 6:00 pm (or by appointment)

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of juvenile delinquency and the juvenile justice system. Specifically, the nature and extent of delinquency, explanatory models and theories: the juvenile justice system; history, philosophy, and evaluation of the juvenile court, juvenile court practices and procedures; the role of the police officer and the correctional officer. This is a highly interactive class and will include class discussions that will require the participation of every member of the course.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

During this course students should gain:

- an understanding of how the juvenile justice system is similar and different from the adult justice system;
- an understanding of the functions performed by justice agencies in the juvenile system; and
- an understanding of programs designed to prevent and control juvenile criminality
- an understanding of the factors (theoretical framework) that influence juvenile delinquency;
- current events surrounding the juvenile justice system and the juvenile as an individual

II. REQUIRED READINGS

del Carmen, R., & Trulson, C. (2006). *Juvenile justice: The system, process, and law* Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth. (ISBN 0-534-52158-4).

Additional supplemental material provided by the instructor or accessible through Blackboard.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Program Project (20%)

A. You may work alone or with one other person to write 3-4 pages about a prevention or intervention program used to deter or rehabilitate a general or specific juvenile crime(s), such as gang membership/violence. An outline of what should be included in the paper will be distributed later in the semester. You are encouraged to write on agencies that exist in the area, so that you may interview employees and/or supervisors.

B. The second part of the project will include your suggestions on how the agency could be improved (1-2 pages). While creativity is encouraged, you must ground your polices and/or programs into a theory or process discussed in this course. In other words, you must support the changes suggested.

C. If you choose to work with another person you will be required to informally present the findings about the program and your thoughts about improvement. Presentations will be staggered throughout the session, and dates will be announced after groups are determined. **If you choose to work alone, and want to present, this will count as extra credit.

Examinations (60%)

A midterm and final will be given (30% each). These exams will consist of definitional, descriptive, listing, and/or essay questions. Each examination will be preceded by a comprehensive review and a question and answer session.

“Pop” Quizzes (20%)

Several “pop” quizzes will be administered throughout the semester. They will consist of material discussed in class, as well as any assigned readings.

Grading

Final semester grades will be evaluated on a 100-point scale.

Points
90-100 (A)
80-89 (B)
70-79 (C)
60-69 (D)
0-59 (F)

Make Up and Late Submission Policy

Five points will be deducted for every class day the Program Project is late. Due dates will vary, but students will be given these dates in advance.

Students who miss the midterm exam must inform the instructor in writing, or in case of an extreme emergency by phone or email, of the reason they cannot take the exam. If the instructor approves the absence, the student will be able to take a "make-up" exam on Tuesday, May 6. It will consist of 4 essay questions worth 25 points apiece.

Students who miss one of the "pop" quizzes will be able to take a "make-up" quiz on Tuesday, May 6. This "make-up" quiz will be essay and short answer. Students will only be able to "make-up" one of the quizzes and will be awarded grades of "0" for all other incomplete quizzes.

IV. ATTENDANCE

It is expected that students attend all class sessions and be prepared to discuss the scheduled topics. It is important that readings be completed prior to class to allow for meaningful discussion of the material. Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. A student will not be penalized for four or fewer absences when examinations or other assigned class work have not been missed; however, a student who misses more than four classes will be penalized by having their **Final Grade** lowered by 5 points for every class missed thereafter.

V. CLASS DECORUM

Disrespectful or disparaging comments about race, religion, ideology, or gender will not be tolerated under any circumstance. Physical confrontations will also not be tolerated under any circumstance. If ANY of these situations should arise the offending student(s) will be asked to leave and will not be allowed to return to the class until they have met with the Dean and specific arrangements have been made.

Cell phones must be turned off during the duration of the class and personal conversations must be discontinued once the class has begun. Personal computer usage is strictly limited to the taking of class notes or following lectures in Blackboard. Please refrain from walking out of class before the end of the lecture hour (without the instructor's consent) or coming to class excessively tardy. Overall, respect for the instructor and your classmates is unquestionably required.

VI. ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of the course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and the misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college. The University's policy on academic dishonesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled Student Guidelines distributed by Division of Student Services.
<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

VII. STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Students seeking academic accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 should register with Sam Houston State University's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), part of the SHSU Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex, (936) 294-1720.

VIII. OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

The Texas Education Code (Section 51.911[b]) along with Sam Houston State University policy (University Policy 851001) must recognize the mandatory observance of religious holy days for students. The university permits students to celebrate religious holy days. Please notify the instructor in writing within the first five days of class of any observed religious holidays during the course of the summer session so that arrangements can be made for make up examinations and assignments.

IX. TENTATIVE* ORDER OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Jan 17	Overview of the Semester/How Much Do You Know about Juveniles?	
Jan 22-24	Overview of Juvenile Justice System	Chapter 1
Jan 29-31	Juvenile Justice System (continued)	Chapter 1
Feb 5-7	Police	Chapter 3
Feb 12-14	Intake/Diversion and Courts	Chapter 4 & 6
Feb 19-21	Adjudication of Juveniles	Chapter 8
Feb 26-28	Disposition/Sentencing	Chapter 9
Mar 4	MIDTERM EXAM – Chapters 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 9	
Mar 5	Discuss Projects and Due Dates	
Mar 10-14	Spring Break ☺	
Mar 18-20	Probation, Parole and Correctional Institutions	Chapter 10/11
Mar 25-27	Schools and Rights of Students	Chapter 13
April 1-3	FILM TBA	
April 8-10	Causes of Delinquency/ Gang Activity	Chapter 2 Supp Material
April 15-17	Individual and Social Causes of Delinquency	Supp Material
April 22-24	Environmental Influences	Supp Material
April 29	Juvenile Victimization	Chapter 5
May 1	Catch Up Day	
May 6-8	Makeup Quiz Day and Final Exam Review	
May 13-15	FINAL EXAM – Chapters 10, 11, 13, 2, Supp Material, 5	

*The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus for the duration of the course.