

Criminology Program

CRIM 3310 Sections 001 & 0E1
Youth Crime and Justice
Course Syllabus
Fall Semester 2010
TR 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm
Room: CN 1.304
Syllabus revision date: 5/22/10

Professor Contact Information: Dr. O. Elmer Polk, Green Hall, Office #2.614. elmer.polk@utdallas.edu, telephone 972-883-2983. Students are strongly encouraged to use email as the primary method of communication. Your professor checks email several times per day and you can normally expect a response within 24 hours or sooner.

Office Hours: Students may feel free to contact the professor at any time before or after each class meeting, at the above email address, or at any other time mutually available to both the student and the professor. Office hours are before and after class and by appointment at mutually available times.

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Your teaching assistant for this class is not assigned at the time of the posting of this syllabus. Name and contact information for your TA will be provided during the first week of class.

Pre\Co-requisite: None.

Technical Support: If you experience difficulties with your UTD account you may send an email to assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

- I. Course Description:** This course examines the concept of juvenile delinquency as a distinct type of criminal activity from that committed by adults and assesses the distinct juvenile justice system that has evolved to handle children. Topics will include the historical roots of delinquency and the juvenile justice system, delinquency measurement, explanations of delinquency, and the socio-demographic correlates of delinquency status. .
- II. Learning Outcomes**
 - a. Provide students with a review and/or overview of the adult criminal justice system and how it differs from juvenile justice.
 - b. Provide a thorough understanding for each student of the function and operation of the juvenile justice system.
 - c. Familiarize all students with differing paradigms of juvenile and criminal justice.
 - d. Provide an overview of the historical emergence of juvenile justice within the United States.
 - e. Explore the emerging trends in juvenile justice and the rise of the due process model.
- III. Required Text and course materials:** *Juvenile Delinquency: Theory, Practice and Law, 10th ed.* (2009) by Larry J. Siegel and Brandon C. Walsh. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN#: 978-0-495-50364-4. Students are also required to visit websites as required to complete the written legal briefs.
- IV. Grades** will be posted based on the following scale: A+=98-100, A=94-97, A-=90-93: B+=87-89, B=84-86, B-=80-83, C+=77-79, C=74-76, C-=70-73, D+=67-69, D=64-66, D-=60-63, F=0-59. Grades are based on the following events (due dates are in the course calendar and assignment schedule in Section XV of this syllabus). **Please note that there is no extra credit work available in this class** and each student should strive to do his or her best work on each and every grading event. The mathematical rule of rounding will

apply to the computation of the final grade in the course based on the grades received in the following five events.

- a. Examination I (100 points).
- b. Examination 2 (100 points).
- c. Examination 3 (100 points).
- d. Examination 4 (100 points) (cumulative final examination)
- e. Legal Briefs (100 points)

Examinations: There are four examinations that will consist of 30 to 75 objective items each along with possible short answer and/or essay items. Questions are taken from your textbook, classroom lectures, and the internet sites identified in the syllabus. Your score will be posted in percentage scores in your gradebook on eLearning with a maximum score of 100% on each. **Make up exams are permitted in emergency situations. Make up exams will be on the same content but may consist of essay and short answer questions only rather than the objective questions in the original exam. Much of the material on the exams comes directly from the classroom lectures and will not be covered in the same detail in the text. Students aspiring to do well in the class should plan on attending class regularly and punctually as there will be material presented in lectures that is not covered in the text. Students will be excused for religious holiday purposes.**

Legal Briefs: (4): Each student must locate and read four U.S. Supreme Court decisions on issues related to juvenile justice. The student will prepare and submit a brief of each of the four cases. Details of content and formatting will be discussed in class lecture but each brief must contain a case citation, the facts of the case, the issue brought to the Court, the decision of the Court, the rationale the Court used in reaching the decision, and the principle of law. The briefs should be an example of the student's best writing skills – spelling, grammar, and sentence construction count!!!). The briefs must be printed in font 11 or 12, and single-spaced with one-inch margins and double-spacing between the parts of the brief. There is a ten point per day penalty for late submission of legal briefs with the first ten points deducted 24 hours after the due time (see Section XV of this syllabus for details).

V. Writing Standards

- a. Examinations will be objective in format with the professor's option of one ten point essay question on each. Students should anticipate having to write in this course on the required reaction paper and any essays that may be included on exams...
- b. All written work will be graded on quality of writing as well as substantive content. Written work must be grammatically correct and correctly spelled. Additionally, papers must comply with an accepted style of writing such as Turabian, APA, MLA or Uniform System of Citation.
- c. Plagiarism: Any work, oral or written, that a student does for this course must be his/her original work or it must be properly credited to the original source. Plagiarism includes any form of cheating on examinations, tests, or quizzes, and the taking of ideas or words of another, whether published or unpublished, without properly citing the source.

VI. Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Dallas that each student is responsible for following the Student Code of Conduct and students should read the Code in their Catalog pertaining to all aspects of academic integrity, especially the provisions regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension from the University or other resolutions as required by the University. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, or any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student.

VII. University Drop Policy: It is the responsibility of the student to process the official drop and add forms. Faculty/staff cannot drop students from class. Please be aware the professor cannot drop a student for never attending or missing too many classes and can only assign grades based on the work submitted. For this reason it is important to your grade that if, for any reason, you decide to not complete the course, to complete the appropriate paperwork to drop the class officially or to withdraw from the university.

VIII. Classroom Rules: Pagers and cell phones must be turned off or to vibrate/silent settings. Laptops are permitted in silent mode for note taking purposes only. Comments from students should be directed to the entire class or to the professor and all comments must show appropriate respect and/or tolerance for opposing viewpoints. No person not enrolled in the class is permitted to attend the class without prior permission and no child may be brought to class under any circumstances. No extra credit work of any type for any reason will be permitted in this class unless such credit is extended to each and every student in the section. Students are encouraged to be concerned about their course grade throughout the semester.

Field Trip Policies / Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities: None.

Student Conduct & Discipline: The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, the University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

IX. E-Mail Policy: The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

X. Student Grievance Procedures: Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

XI. Incomplete Grade Policy: As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

XII. Disability Services: The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

XIII. Religious Holy Days: The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated. The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

XIV. Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities:

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address given below. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. (http://www.utdallas.edu/Business Affairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm)

XV. COURSE CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Please note that all reading assignments made in this assignment schedule refer to readings in the required textbook, internet sites, or class handouts. Additional outside readings are required for the legal briefs.

The Professor reserves the option of spending more or less time on each topic than is indicated on the course outline. To stay abreast of topics, and to enable class discussion, required readings for each topic should be completed before the class session devoted to the topic. Each student is responsible for the material in the assigned readings in addition to all materials and discussions in the classroom. Remember that material will be presented in lectures that is not covered to the same level in the text or the internet sites. Attendance and punctuality is important to your grade. Please feel free to bring questions to class weekly as you progress on your readings and/or legal briefs.

Session 1 Thur. Aug. 19: Welcome to the class and professor resume. Introduction to the course. Review of the syllabus. Discuss writing assignment.
Assignment: Read preface and Chapter 1

Session 2 Tues. Aug. 24: Discuss the concept of juvenile responsibility, mens rea and why we have a juvenile court. The philosophy of parens patriae. Juvenile Justice in America. Discuss differences and similarities between the adult and juvenile justice systems. Delinquency and CINS. Dependant and neglected children. Juveniles and delinquency defined.
Assignment: Read Chapter 1.

Session 3 Thur. Aug. 26: A brief walk through the juvenile justice system.
Assignment: Read Chapter 2.

Required Internet Site 1: The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission. www.tjpc.state.tx.us Go to About TJPC on the top menu and scroll down to job opportunities. What are the requirements for juvenile probation officer?

Session 4 Tues. Aug. 31: Measuring juvenile crime.
Assignment: Read Chapter 2.

Session 5 Thur. Sept. 2: Causes of delinquency. The Classical School and Biological thought. Classicists and positivists.
Assignment: Continue to read Chapter 3.

Session 6 Tues. Sept. 7: Social structure and delinquency.
Assignment: Continue to read Chapter 4.

Session 7 Thur. Sept. 9: Social process and delinquency.
Assignment: Continue to read Chapter 4 and review for Exam 1.

Session 8 Tues. Sept. 14: **Examination 1 on chapters 1-4**
Assignment: Read Chapter 5.

Session 9 Thur. Sept. 16: Return and discuss Exam 1. Lecture on social reaction and delinquency.
Assignment: Continue to read Chapter 5.

Session 10 Tues. Sept. 21: The labeling perspective.
Assignment: Read Chapter 6.

Session 11 Thur. Sept. 23: Conflict and delinquency.
Assignment: Read Chapter 6.

Required Internet Site 2: Go to www.tarrantcounty.com/ejuvenile and scroll down to continuum of services and click on it. Review the wide range of services provided in the various categories.

Session 12 Tues. Sept. 28: Developmental theories of delinquency. Life-course and latent trait.
Assignment: Read Chapter 7.

Session 13 Thur. Sept. 30: Gender and delinquency, trends and patterns. Female gangs.
Assignment: Read Chapter 8.

Session 14 Tues. Oct. 5: Family and delinquency.
Assignment: Review Chapters 5-8.

Session 15 Thur. Oct. 7: Finish discussion of theoretic schools of thought. Review for Exam 2.
Assignment: Study for Exam 2.

Session 16 Tues. Oct. 12: **Examination 2 on chapters 5-8.**
Assignment: Read Chapter 9.

Session 17 Thur. Oct. 14: Return and discuss Exam 2. Lecture on peers and delinquency. Juvenile gangs and groups.
Assignment: Read Chapter 9.

Session 18 Tues. Oct. 19: The family and delinquency. Implications of Differential Association and Social Bonds.
Assignment: Read Chapter 10.

Session 19 Thur. Oct. 21: Schools and delinquency.
Assignment: Read Chapter 10.

Session 20 Tues. Oct. 26: Zero tolerance and "broken windows".
Assignment: Read Chapter 11.

Session 21 Thur. Oct. 28: Juveniles and paint, glue, alcohol.
Assignment: Read Chapter 11.

Session 22 Tues. Nov.2: Juveniles and marijuana, designer drugs, traditional drugs. Crack and cocaine.
Assignment: Read Chapter 12.

Session 23 Thur. Nov.4: delinquency prevention. Review for Exam 3.
Assignment: Review Chapters 9-12.

Session 24 Tues. Nov.9: **Examination 3 on chapter 9-12.**
Assignment: Read Chapter 13.

Session 25 Thur. Nov.11: Return and discuss Exam 3. Lecture on history and formation of the juvenile court.
Assignment: Read Chapter 14.

Session 26 Tues. Nov.16: Police work with juveniles. Referral process. Reasons for detention in Texas. Detention hearings and processes.
Assignment: Read Chapter 15.

Session 27 Thur. Nov.18: Juvenile court process, pretrial and sentencing.
Assignment: Read Chapter 15.

Session 28 Tues. Nov.23: Transfers to adult court. The types of transfer. *In re Gault* and *Kent v. U.S.*
Assignment: none.

Session 29 Thur. Nov.25: Thanksgiving Holiday ☺
Assignment: Read Chapter 16.

Session 30 Tues. Nov.30: Juvenile probation and corrections.
Assignment: Read Chapter 17.

Required internet site # 3: Go to www.tyc.state.tx.us and then go to Research and Data on right side of page and click. Go to Commitment Profile for New Commitments Fiscal Years 2003-2007. What happened to the commitment rate for males in 2007?

Session 31 Thur. Dec. 2: Last day of class. Delinquency and juvenile justice abroad. Review for final exam.
Assignment: Review Chapters 13-17.

Session 32 Tues. Dec. 9: **Final Examination at 11 am in regular classroom** on Chapters 13-17.