

Criminology Program

CRIM 3310 Section 001 (82133)
Youth Crime and Justice
Course Syllabus
Fall Semester 2011
MWF 11:00 am – 11:50 am
Room: GR 2.530
Syllabus revision date: 4/5/11

Professor Contact Information: Dr. O. Elmer Polk, Green Hall, Office #2.408. 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, during posted office hours, at the above email address, or at any other time mutually available to both the student and the professor. Hours posted for Fall Semester 2011 are MWF 12-1 pm.

Graduate Teaching Assistant: None assigned. If a TA is later assigned to this section the name and contact information 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 Justice: A Social, Historical, and Legal Perspective, 3rd ed. (2011). Elrod, Preston & R. Scott Ryder. Jones and Bartlett Publishers. ISBN 10#: 0-7637-6251-2; ISBN 13#: 978-0-7637-6251-3.

Students are also required to visit websites identified in the course syllabus.
- 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 five 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 50 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 VIII 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 legal briefs 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. 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.

VII. Students wishing information on the following topics and policies should visit the website following the list. Student Conduct & Discipline, Student Grievance Procedures, Incomplete Grade Policy, Disability Services, Religious Holy Days, Academic Integrity, Copyright Notice, Email Use, Withdrawal from Class, and Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities:
<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

VIII. 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 Wed. Aug. 24: 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 Fri. Aug. 26: Defining delinquent, defining status offenses. The Texas Family Code.

Assignment: Read Chapters 1.

Session 3 Mon. Aug. 29: Defining a juvenile. Overview of the juvenile justice system.

Assignment: Read Chapter 2.

Session 4 Wed. Aug. 31: Measuring the extent of delinquency. Official data.

Assignment: Continue to read Chapter 2.

Session 5 Fri. Sept. 2: Self-report data and victim data.

Assignment: Read Chapter 3.

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 6 Mon. Sept. 5: Labor Day Holiday.

Assignment: Read Chapter 3.

Session 7 Wed. Sept. 7: Theories of delinquency, family and school variables.

Assignment: Continue to read Chapter 3.

Session 8 Fri. Sept. 9: Theories of delinquency, family and school variables (con't.)

Assignment: Continue to read Chapter 3.

Session 9 Mon. Sept. 12: Implications of learning and labeling theories for the juvenile system.

Assignment: Read Chapter 4.

Session 10 Wed. Sept. 14: Early juvenile justice. Evolution of the role of the child in society.

Assignment: Read Chapter 4.

Session 11 Fri. Sept. 16: Evolution of institutions utilized for child placement. Review for Exam 1.

Assignment: Study for Exam 1

Session 12 Mon. Sept. 19: **Exam 1 on Chapters 1,2,3,&4 plus class notes.**

Assignment: Read Chapter 5

Session 13 Wed. Sept. 21: Return and discuss Exam 1. Progressive Era and Child Savers.

Assignment: Read Chapter 5

Session 14 Fri. Sept. 23: *Parens patriae*, *Ex parte Crouse*, lack of due process, dependant and neglected children

Assignment: Read Chapter 6.

Session 15 Mon. Sept. 26: *Kent v. US (1966)* – judicial waivers,

Assignment: Read Chapter 5.

Session 16 Wed. Sept. 28: *In re Gault* (1967) due process

Assignment: Read Chapter 5.

Session 17 Fri. Sept. 30: *In re Winship* (1970) – level of proof; *McKeiver v. Pennsylvania* (1971) – jury trials, exclusionary rule – does not apply, Miranda warnings – do not apply, and bail – none.

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 18 Mon. Oct. 3: Police and juveniles, Warnings and referrals.

Assignment: Read Chapter 7.

Session 19 Wed. Oct. 5: Informal and formal processing.

Assignment: Read Chapter 7.

Session 20 Fri. Oct. 7: Juvenile diversion. Revisit implications of Societal Reaction Theory (labeling). Net-widening.

Assignment: Read Chapter 8

Session 21 Mon. Oct. 10: Juvenile referral and intake, intake process

Assignment: Read Chapter 8

Session 22 Wed. Oct. 12: Informal adjustment, request for petition.

Assignment: Read Chapter 8.

Session 23 Fri. Oct. 14: Detention hearings and processes.

Assignment: Read Chapter 8.

Session 24 Mon. Oct. 17: Discussion of legal briefs – content and formatting.

Session 25 Wed. Oct. 19: Day in the life of a detained child. Reasons for detention in Texas.

Assignment: Study for Exam 2

Session 26 Fri. Oct. 21: **Exam 2 on Chapters 5,6,7,8 plus class notes and internet sites.**

Assignment: Read Chapter 9

Session 27 Mon. Oct. 24: Return and discuss Exam 2. Purpose of waiver. Judicial waiver to adult court.

Assignment: Read Chapter 9.

Session 28 Wed. Oct. 26: Prosecutorial waiver, legislative waiver.

Assignment: Read Chapter 9.

Session 29 Fri. Oct. 28: Concurrent jurisdiction by both juvenile and adult courts.

Assignment: Read Chapter 9.

Session 30 Mon. Oct. 31: Death Penalty questions - *Thompson* (1988), *Stanford* (1989), *Roper v. Simmons* (2005)

Assignment: Read Chapter 10.

Session 31 Wed. Nov. 2: Double jeopardy questions, effectiveness of transfer – majority is not for most serious offenses but for those with prior records or for older juveniles. Reverse waivers, segregated incarceration, youthful offender designation.

Assignment: Read Chapter 10

Session 32 Fri. Nov. 4: Blended sentencing,

Assignment: Read Chapter 10.

Session 33 Mon. Nov. 7: Structure of the juvenile court, key players and their roles, non-adversarial nature of court and the best interests of the child standard. Trial process, intake, prosecutor, defense attorney, guardian ad litem, probation

officer, judge. Hearsay permitted unlike adult court – variables such as school performance, peer associations and family relationships.

Assignment: Read Chapter 11.

Session 34 Wed. Nov. 9: Pre-disposition report.

Assignment: Read Chapter 11

Session 35 Fri. Nov. 11: Case supervision and investigation.

Assignment: Read Chapter 11.

Session 36 Mon. Nov. 14: Conditions of supervision.

Assignment: Read Chapter 11.

Session 37 Wed. Nov. 16: Intermediate sanctions. waning, IA, probation, lsp

Written legal briefs are due at the beginning of class today. Late papers will be reduced in grade by 10 points for each 243 hour period of time they are late including weekends and holidays. Briefs may be submitted early to avoid last minute issues at the discretion of the student.

Assignment: Chapter 11

Session 38 Fri. Nov. 18: Range of sentencing options: house arrest, electronic monitoring, halfway houses, TYC

Assignment: Read Chapter 11.

Session 39 Mon. Nov. 21: Restitution, wilderness programs, placing out, day treatment, foster homes, group homes, and shelters.

Assignment: Study for Exam 3. Chapters 9, 10, & 11

Session 40 Wed. Nov. 23: **Examination 3. Chapters 9, 10, & 11 plus lecture notes.**

Assignment: Read Chap. 12

Session 41 Fri. Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Holiday.

Assignment: Read Chapter 12.

Session 42 Mon. Nov. 28: Return and discuss Exam 3. Types of juvenile institutions.

Assignment: Read Chapter 13.

Session 43 Wed. Nov. 30: Diagnostic and reception centers, state schools, cottages, long and short term treatment centers, camps/ranches.

Assignment: Read Chapter 14

Session 44 Fri. Dec. 2: The Texas Youth Commission – organization and function

Assignment: Read Chapter 15

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 TYC Commitment Profile for New Commitments Fiscal Years 2005-2009. How many total commitments were there in 2005? in 2009?

Session 45 Fri. Dec. 5: Last day of class. The status offender and bootstrapping. Violent offenders and careers in juvenile justice. Discuss final exam.

Assignment: Read Chapter 16, study for final exam.

Final Exam: As per university schedule Dec. 9-Dec. 14. **Take-home Comprehensive Final Examination. Primarily on chapters 12,13,14,15,&16 plus questions from previous exams, assigned studies, and class notes.**