

Criminology Program
Course Syllabus
CRIM 3310 Section 001
Youth Crime and Justice
Fall Semester 2014
MWF 12:00 noon – 12:50 pm
Room: GR 3.606
Syllabus revision date: 04/10/2014

Professor Contact Information: Dr. O. Elmer Polk, Green Hall, Office #2.408. elmer.polk@utdallas.edu, telephone 972-883-2983. Students are required to use eLearning messages on the course homepage as the primary method of electronic communication. Your professor checks messages several times per day and you can normally expect a response within 24 hours or sooner. In person office visits are welcome and encouraged.

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 course message link, or at any other time mutually available to both the student and the professor. Hours posted for Fall Semester 2014 are MWF 11 am -12 noon am or by appointment.

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Your teaching assistant for this class has not been assigned. You will be notified during the first week of class if one is subsequently assigned to this section.

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

1. Students will review the adult criminal justice system and differentiate the juvenile system from the adult system.
2. Students will track the progress of a juvenile through the entire juvenile justice system in Texas.
3. Each student will list the various landmark cases of the U.S. Supreme Court on juvenile justice and be able to specify the majority decision in each.
4. Students will differentiate the underlying *parens patriae* philosophy of the juvenile court from the adversarial system of the adult court.
5. Track the historical emergence of juvenile justice within the United States from the child savers to individual accountability.
6. List and define competing schools of thought and individual theories purporting to explain the onset and continuation of delinquency.
7. Explore the emerging trends in juvenile justice and the rise of the due process model.

III. Required Text and course materials:

Required Text: *Juvenile Justice in America*, 7th ed. (2014) by Clemens Bartollas & Stuart Miller, Prentice Hall Publishing, ISBN#: 9780132978309.

Additionally, students are required to read appropriate, current criminal justice journal articles and access internet materials as assigned in the Course Calendar and Assignment Schedule section of this syllabus or as required for Discussion Board Postings and completion of the required writing assignments.

Textbook and other bookstore materials can be ordered online through [Off-Campus Books](#) or the [UTD Bookstore](#). They are also available in stock at both bookstores and other booksellers.

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 VIII 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. Forum 1 Discussion Board Postings (100 points). Details below and on course eLearning homepage.
- e. Legal Briefs (4) (100 points)

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.

Dropping the course: Please know that if you want to drop the course, you must pick up the appropriate drop form from your advisor or the registrar's office and complete it. You can't be dropped because you stop coming to class and you will receive a final course grade based on the work submitted unless you process the drop form.

Examinations: There are three examinations that will consist of 50 to 100 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 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.

Forum Essays: Answers to five Essay questions must be submitted by the due date in this syllabus in essay format of 250 words or more per answer with 3 references and a word count (references for all five questions must be in standard APA formatting). References must be listed for each individual essay in a reference list and internal cites must be used to show where each of the three references was used in the narrative of the answer. Details may be found on the eLearning course homepage. Attention to proper writing and correct spelling is expected in the essays and is a part of the grade received for the assignment. Use proper grammar and spelling and do not use any type of abbreviations or jargon not found in a commonly accepted, standardized English dictionary. All discussion question answers must be posted on the discussion board either by keying your answer directly into the answer block provided or by cutting and pasting or dragging your answer into the block. **DO NOT POST YOUR DISCUSSION ESSAYS AS ATTACHMENTS. Late penalty of ten points per day will apply – no exceptions. Early submission is highly encouraged.**

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. Case selection is part of the assignment but any U.S Supreme Court decision discussed in your textbook is appropriate as is any other U.S. Supreme Court decision addressing juvenile issues specifically. Instructions and an example may be found on the eLearning homepage.

V. 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. Details may be found in Section VII of this syllabus.

VI. Classroom Rules: Pagers and cell phones must be turned off or to 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. 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 the material presented in lectures 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.

Week 1 of Class (8/25-8/30): Read the preface and chapter 1 in the required textbook. Topics: The history, development and organization of juvenile justice? Also read the entire class syllabus and introductory materials available on the course website. Welcome to the class! These readings will introduce you to the course, the professor, and the expectations of you in the course.

Week 2 (8/31-9/6): Read chapter 2. Topic: The national assessment of juvenile crime and violence.

Week 3 (9/7-9/12): Read chapter 3. Topics: Causes of juvenile delinquency. Application of theory to practice

Required Internet **Site #1:** Go to The Texas Juvenile Justice Department. www.tjjd.texas.gov Go to careers on the top-right menu and scroll down to county job opportunities. What are the requirements for juvenile probation officer?

Week 4 (9/14-9/20): Read chapter 4. Topic: gender, race/ethnicity and class correlates of delinquency.

Week 5 (9/21-9/27): Read chapter 5. Topics: The police-juvenile interaction.

Required Internet **Site #2:** Go to the Texas criminal statutes at www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us and select Penal Code from the drop down menu. Select Chapter 12 Punishments. Know the classification of illegal acts at both the misdemeanor and felony levels and the level of jail or prison time for each category.

9/26 Friday → EXAM 1 ON CHAPTERS 1- 5 and required internet sites 1-2.

Week 6 (9/28-10/4): Read chapter 6. Topics: Juvenile Court and significant U.S. Supreme Court decisions relating to rights of juveniles. Differentiating status offenders.

Required Internet Site #3: 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.

Week 7 (10/5-10/11): Read chapter 7. Topic: Transfer of juvenile jurisdiction to adult court. The emergence of death penalty law in juvenile cases.

Week 8 (10/12-10/18): Read chapter 8. Topic: Juvenile probation, juvenile intake, casework and reports to the court.

Week 9 (10/19-10/25): Read chapter 9. Topic: Community based programs.

Week 10 (10/26-11/1): Read chapter 10. Topic: Juvenile institutions

Required Internet Site #4: Go to www.tjtd.texas.gov and then go to Research and Statistics on top of page and follow youth demographics arrow to Commitment Profile for TJJD. Click on it and scroll down to the various categories of data. What crime resulted in the most commitments in 2006? In 2012? Did it go up or down during the period of time? What percentage of commitments were male in 2012?

10/31 Friday → EXAM 2 ON CHAPTERS 6-10 & and required internet sites 3-4.

Week 11 (11/2-11/8): Read chapter 11. Topic: Juvenile aftercare/parole.

Week 12 (11/9-11/15): Read chapter 12. Topic: treatment, rehabilitation and “Nothing Works”.

11/14 Friday → FORUM ESSAYS DUE. MUST POST FIVE DISCUSSION QUESTION ANSWERS BY MIDNIGHT. Ten points per day late penalty.

Week 13 (11/16-11/22): Read chapters 13. Topic: Juvenile gangs.

Required Internet Site #5: go to <http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/2011-national-gang-threat-assessment/2011-national-gang-threat-assessment#CurrentGang> and read down to the section on juvenile gangs. What does the report say about the increase of juvenile gangs in Texas?

11/21 Friday→LEGAL BRIEFS DUE. MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE COURSE ASSIGNMENTS FOLDER. Early submission is highly encouraged. Ten points per day late penalty.

Week 14 (11/23-11/29): Fall Break.

Week 15 (11/30-12/6): Read chapter 14. Topic: Drugs and youthful offending

Required Internet Site #6: Go to <http://www.dallascounty.org/departments/HR/employment.html>. Click on the jobs tab on the menu at left. Then click first on the job category of Law Enforcement, Probation, Security, and Public Safety and secondly on Juvenile. What is the minimum pay for a Community Supervision Officer (Adult Probation)? Juvenile Detention Officer 1?

Week 16 (12/7-12/10) Read chapters 15 & 16. Topics: International juvenile justice and the future of juvenile justice. .

12/15 Monday → EXAM 3 (ONLINE FINAL EXAM). Chapters 11-16 plus required internet sites 5-6. Open book and open note. DUE BY 11:59 p.m. MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE COURSE EXAMS FOLDER. Exam may be submitted up to one week early but no time extensions are permissible beyond the required date and time.