

Criminology Program
Course Syllabus
CRIM 3310 Section 001(23735)
Youth Crime and Justice
Spring Semester 2017
MWF 12:00 am – 12:50 pm
Room: GR 2.302
Syllabus revision date: 11/08/2016

Professor Contact Information: Dr. O. Elmer Polk, Green Hall, Office #2.208. elmer.polk@utdallas.edu, telephone 972-883-2983. Students are required to use the message tool in eLearning to communicate with the professor about questions pertaining to the course. Your professor checks messages 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 course email address, or at any other time mutually available to both the student and the professor. Hours posted for Spring Semester 2017 are MWF 8-9 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. Review the adult criminal justice system and differentiate the juvenile system from the adult system.
2. Track the progress of a juvenile through the entire juvenile justice system in Texas.
3. 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. List and define competing schools of thought and individual theories purporting to explain the onset and continuation of delinquency.

III. Required Text and course materials: Required Text: *Juvenile Justice: An Introduction*, 8th ed. (2015). By John T. Whitehead and Steven P. Lab. Routledge Publishing. ISBN #: 978-0-323-29871-1.

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 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 1 (100 points).
- b. Examination 2 (100 points).
- c. Examination 3 (100 points).
- d. Forum 1 (100 points). Details below and on course eLearning homepage.
- e. Forum 2 (100 points) Details below and on course eLearning homepage.
- f. Legal Briefs (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 70 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.

Forums 1 & 2: Answers to five Essay questions per forum 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 in Forums 1&2 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.**

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.

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.

Session 1 Mon. Jan. 9: Welcome to the class and professor resume. Introduction to the course. Review of the syllabus. Discuss writing assignment. Legal Briefs.
Assignment: Read preface and Chapter 1

Session 2 Wed. Jan. 11: Origins of juvenile justice. The Texas Family code. Defining a juvenile.
Assignment: Read Chapter 1

Session 3 Fri. Jan. 13: Defining delinquency. Delinquent offenses. Status offenses. Bootstrapping.
Assignment: Read Chapter 1.

Session 4 Mon. Jan. 16: **Holiday – no class.**
Assignment: read Chapter 2

Session 5 Wed. Jan. 18 Overview of the juvenile justice system. Comparison of the juvenile and adult systems focusing on terminological/labeling differences.
Assignment: Read Chapter 2

Required internet site 1: 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?

Session 6 Fri. Jan. 20: Historical treatment of juveniles, industrial revolution, houses of refuge and the development of the doctrine of parens patriae. Traditional, due process, and punitive models of juvenile justice.
Assignment: Read Chapter 3

Session 7 Mon. Jan. 23: emerging trends in juvenile justice
Assignment: Read Chapter 3

Session 8 Wed. Jan. 25: Measuring delinquency, trends in juvenile crime patterns, official, victim and self-report data.
Assignment: read Chapter 3

Session 9 Fri. Jan. 27 Deterrence theory, routine activities.
Assignment: read Chapter 4

Session 10 Mon. Jan. 30: Biological theories.
Assignment: Read Chapter 4

Session 11 Wed. Feb. 1: Psychological theories.
Assignment: read Chapter 4

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 Fri. Feb. 3: rational choice theory
Assignment: Read Chapter 4

Session 13 Mon. Feb. 6: Social structure theories.
Assignment: Read Chapter 4

Session 14 Wed. Feb. 8: Social process theories.
Assignment: Read Chapter 4

Session 15 Fri. Feb. 10: the labeling perspective, the impact of theory on juvenile justice and review for exam
Assignment: read Chapter 4

Session 16 Mon. Feb. 13: **EXAMINATION 1 ON CHAPTERS 1-4, AND THE ACCOMPANYING CHAPTER OUTLINES, POWERPOINTS, AND INTERNET SITES 1 & 2.**

Session 17 Wed. Feb. 15: Gangs defined, early gang research
Assignment: Read Chapter 5

Session 18 Fri. Feb. 17: Characteristics of gangs, gang behavior
Assignment: Read Chapter 5

Session 19 Mon. Feb. 20: Drugs and delinquency
Assignment: read Chapter 5

Session 20 Wed. Feb. 22: *In re Gault. Winship and McKeiver.*
Assignment: Continue to read Chapter 6

Session 21 Fri. Feb. 24: The drug -delinquency connection
Assignment: Read Chapter 6

Session 22 Mon. 27: Policing and juveniles
Assignment: Read Chapter 7

Session 23 Wed. Mar. 1: Professional policing and juveniles
Assignment: Read Chapter 7

Session 24 Fri. Mar. 3: Recent issues in policing with juveniles
Assignment: Read Chapter 7

Session 25 Mon. Mar. 6: juvenile detention.
Assignment: Read Chapter 8

Session 26 Wed. Mar. 8: **EXAMINATION 2 ON CHAPTERS 5-10, AND THE ACCOMPANYING CHAPTER OUTLINES, POWERPOINTS, AND CLASS LECTURES**

Session 27 Fri. Mar.10: Intake processes, Waivers and blended sentences.
Assignment: Read Chapter 8

Session 28 Mon. Mar. 13: **Spring Break – no class.**

Session 29 Wed. Mar. 15: **Spring Break – no class.**
Assignment: Continue to read Chapter 8

Session 30 Fri. Mar. 17: **Spring Break – no class.**
Assignment: Read Chapter 8

Session 31 Mon. Mar. 20: Adjudication and disposition
Assignment: read Chapter 8

Session 32 Wed. Mar. 22: Due Process and juveniles.

Assignment: read Chapter 9

FORUM 1 DISCUSSION QUESTION ANSWERS MUST BE POSTED ON THE ELEARNING DISCUSSION BOARD NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT. A late penalty of 10 percent per day will apply to all answers posted after midnight.

Session 33 Fri. Mar. 24: Supreme Court rulings 1. *Thompson, Stanford, Roper and Atkins.*

Assignment: Continue to read Chapter 9

Session 34 Mon. Mar. 27: Supreme Court rulings 2

Assignment: read Chapter 9

Session 35 Wed. Mar. 29: Search and seizure as it applies to juveniles.

Assignment: Read Chapter 9

Required internet site 3: 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?

Session 36 Fri. Mar. 31: Rights at school home, and community

Assignment: Read Chapter 9

Session 37 Mon. Apr. 3: Institutional/residential interventions.

Assignment: read Chapter 10

Session 38 Wed. Apr. 5: Institutional corrections for juveniles

Assignment: Read Chapter 10

Session 39 Fri. Apr. 7: State training schools, TJJD

Assignment: Continue to read Chapter 10

Session 40 Mon. Apr. 10: Aftercare, Texas parole

Assignment: Read Chapter 11

FORUM 2 DISCUSSION QUESTION ANSWERS MUST BE POSTED ON THE ELEARNING DISCUSSION BOARD NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT. A late penalty of 10 percent per day will apply to all answers posted after midnight.

Session 41 Wed. Apr. 12: case supervision and counseling

Assignment: read Chapter 11

Session 42 Fri. Apr. 14: Treatment interventions with offenders

Assignment: read Chapter 11

Session 43 Mon. Apr. 17: Restorative justice

Assignment: read Chapter 12

Session 44 Wed. Apr. 19: Victimization of juveniles.

Assignment: read Chapter 13

Session 45 Fri. Apr. 21: Role of formal social control agencies.

Assignment: Read Chapter 13

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 2012? Did it go up or down during the period of time 2012-2014? What percentage of commitments were male in 2014?

Session 46 Mon. Apr. 24: Future directions.

Assignment: read Chapter 14

**FOUR LEGAL BRIEFS OF US SUPREME COURT DECISIONS RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE DUE TODAY T
THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. LATE PENALTY OF 10 POINTS PER DAY WILL COMMENCE 24 HOURS FROM
TODAY'S CLASS TIME.** All four briefs must be submitted together but all may be submitted earlier than today at any
point in the semester.

Session 47 Wed. Apr. 26: Review for Exam 3.

Assignment: Study for Exam 3

Session 48 Fri. Apr. 28: Last day of class. **ONLINE EXAMINATION 3 DUE AT 1:00 PM TODAY. CHAPTERS 11-14
PLUS QUESTIONS FROM REQUIRED INTERNET SITES 3&4 AND CLASS NOTES. (Exam may be accessed one
week prior).**