# GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY College of Arts & Sciences Division of Liberal Arts

Index Number:	CJUS 330	
Course Title:	Juvenile Justice	
Professor:	Dr. Rose Bigler Office: E-2542 (708) 534-4577	
Credit Hours:	3.0	
Trimester:	Spring, 1999	

## **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

This course explores the development of the juvenile court and the system of juvenile justice in the United States. Contemporary issues in juvenile justice, as well as some of the current approaches to prevention, control, and treatment will be studied.

## **COURSE RATIONALE AND APPROACH:**

The purpose of this course is to examine and critically analyze the role of both delinquent and dependent minors in the juvenile justice system. Topics emphasized include historical responses to juveniles; criminal offenses committed by juveniles; programs and institutions that are utilized by the juvenile justice system; and specific problems of dependent children, i.e., abuse, neglect, and status offenses. An interdisciplinary approach, including lectures, discussion, group presentations, guest speakers, and video tapes, will be the principle methodology. Active student participation is strongly encouraged for this course.

### PREREQUISITES: None.

#### **REQUIRED TEXT:**

Regoli, Robert and Hewitt, John. <u>Delinquency in Society</u>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, McGraw Hill: New York, New York, 1997.

Additional readings may be placed on reserve in the library during the course.

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### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- 1. To provide the student with an overview of the juvenile justice system.
- 2. To develop an appreciation for the underlying historical philosophies that guide the court's decision making process.
- 3. To develop some understanding of the persistent problems and special issues confronting the juvenile justice system.

### **EXPECTATIONS:**

- 1. Class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend <u>ALL</u> classes. Any student who misses 25% or more of the class sessions (4 or more) will automatically **FAIL** the course. Students are also expected to be prompt for <u>all</u> class sessions. Arriving late for a class meeting is counted as a tardy. You are tardy if you come into class after your name is called during roll call. No tardy can be later than ten minutes. Three "tardies" will count as one absence. Leaving class early or during break will also be taken into account appropriately.
- 2. Students are expected to prepare before each class all assigned readings.
- 3. Students are expected to make arrangements to see me when they need assistance with the course. Please see me before or after class to make an appointment or visit my office during my regular office hours that are posted on my door (E #2542, office phone number: (708) 534-4577).

### **EXAMINATIONS, GROUP PRESENTATIONS, AND GRADING:**

The final grade for each student will be based equally on three in-class examinations and a group presentation. Each examination will count 25% of the final grade. These examinations will consist of a combination of objective and short answer questions. The group presentation will count 25% of the final grade.

The group presentation will be developed from a special topic assigned to student groups of seven or eight members. Each group will prepare a 30 minute oral presentation as well as a 10-12 page (typed and double-spaced) research paper on their topic. These presentations will be graded for substance, creativity, and research methodology as well as spelling, grammar, and style. Each research paper must include at least 25-35 citations (from 15 or more sources) that will be attached to the final work.

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Additional information on the group presentations will be provided later in the semester.

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   The grading scale for the class:

   90 100
   A
   60 69.99
   D

   80 89.99
   B
   Below 60
   F

   70 79.99
   C
   C
   F
- 2. Class attendance and participation will also be considered in cases of borderline grades.
- 3. Students must take exams on the given dates. Unless given prior permission, exams taken later than the provided date will be lowered one letter grade. Late exams may also be <u>all</u> essay questions.
- 4. All group research papers are due at the beginning of the assigned class. If no assigned paper is handed in, you will fail the course. Students should make a copy of their paper prior to turning it in to me.
- 5. No "extra-credit" may be earned.
- 6. No student will be exempt from any examination or the group presentation.
- 7. All lectures, assigned readings, and outside materials are testable.
  - 8. <u>All</u> students are expected to adhere to the Governors State University Honor Code, especially in respect to cheating and plagiarism. <u>Any</u> infractions will result in a "F" grade for the course as well as other sanctions.

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# **COURSE SCHEDULE**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic or Activity</u>	<u>Reading</u>
May 10	Introduction	
May 12	History/Philosophy	Chapters 1
May 17	Continue Introduction to Case Study	Handouts
May 19	Defining and Measuring Delinquency	Chapter 2, 13, 14
May 24	Exam #1	Study!
May 26	Media and Delinquency Organization of Groups	
May 31	No class!!!Holiday!!!	
June 2	Problems of the Family: Physical and Sexual Abuse, Neglect, Runaways, etc.	Chapter 9 Handouts
June 7	Continue	Handouts
June 9	Adolescence, Peers, and Delinquency: Drugs, Alcohol, Gangs, School Crime	Chapters 10, 11, 12
June 14	Exam #2	Study!
June 16	Etiology of Delinquency: Biological, Psychological, and Sociological Theories of Delinquency	Chapter 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
June 21	Police, Intake, Legal Factors Juvenile Court, Diversion, Confidentiality, Detention, Corrections Jeopardy Game	Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18
June 23	Exam #3	Study!
June 28	Group Presentations	