Juvenile Delinquency
CJ 5317
Fall, 2014

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Texts:

Bartollas, C. & Schmalleger, F. (2008). *Juvenile Delinquency, 9th Edition*. New York, NY: Pearson.

Additional readings will frequently be assigned during the course of the semester. Any additional materials will be posted on Blackboard in PDF format so that you can download them.

Course Description:

The focus of this course is on antisocial/criminal behavior committed by juveniles. In particular, we will look at the various explanations for juvenile delinquency. These include theoretical explanations as well as "risk factors" for delinquency, such as gangs and drugs. We will also discuss how delinquent behavior as a child and adolescent can influence behaviors throughout a person's life.

<u>Criminal Justice Graduate Program Learning Objectives (PLOs)</u>

<u>PLO 1</u>. Demonstrated knowledge of specific Legal Liabilities for Criminal Justice professionals. The ability to recognize violations of an individual's rights bases on Constitutional protections, and the awareness of the consequences of those violations to individuals and agencies. The ability to apply basic legal research skills to identify and compare current court rulings on criminal justice policies.

<u>PLO 2</u>. Applicable knowledge of specific Criminological theories. The ability to identify and apply Criminological theories to criminal events. A working skill set of Criminological theory, with the ability to compare and contrast competing theoretical arguments.

<u>PLO 3.</u> Workable knowledge of the process and application of the methods of scientific research. The ability to critique a piece of research based on its methodology. The ability to identify bias within a research model. The ability to apply research into criminal justice policy.

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

***Please note - in this class, all assignments are submitted in Blackboard, not email.**

Assignments

Your grade for the course will be based on the following assignments:

1. Discussion Boards (20 percent)
2. Research Paper (30 percent)
3. Midterm Exam (25 percent)
4. Final Exam (25 percent)

Please note - I **do not** use the Grade book in Blackboard to calculate grades. The scores are not weighted based on how much the assignments are worth. Please use the spreadsheet found in the Course Documents section if you want to track your progress.

Discussion Boards

Each week there will be one or two discussions that you will participate in. The goal is have you think about questions and issues related to the week's topic and discuss them with your classmates. It is important to actively participate in these discussions since they replace the "classroom experience." Please refer to

the Discussion Board Guidelines document to learn more about participation rules and criteria.

Research Paper

You will need to write a 20 – 25 page paper on a juvenile delinquency related issue or topic. The paper must be based on the academic literature – using personal experience, websites, and other non-academic sources is not acceptable. Additional information on the requirements for the paper can be found in the Research Paper Guidelines document. You must submit a topic for approval by the end of week 3.

Midterm and Final Exams

There is also a midterm and final exam. Both will be in-depth essay exams. Each exam will consist of questions that will require you to incorporate the various readings. Outside research may also be required. The final exam is not cumulative and will only cover the material after the midterm.

***Cheating and Plagiarism*: Just don't do it. At the graduate level you are expected to know how properly cite other peoples' works when incorporating it into your own research. If you are caught plagiarizing you will receive an F for the course and may be suspended from the program. All references to other works are to be cited using APA format. You can purchase the APA manual or look at the multiple online resources on how to use APA format.**

If you have any questions about the course or assignments you should contact me so I can provide clarification.

Class Schedule

Below you will find an outline of the schedule for the course and includes the major topics and readings assigned for each module as well as assignments, discussion board posts, quizzes, mid-term and final essay exams. ***The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule*** to accommodate student progress and learning needs. Due dates for the special assignments are listed below. Your weekly assignments are listed in the course modules.

Unit	Dates	Topic	Readings	Notable Assignments
1	8/25 - 8/31	Overview	Chapters 1, 2	
2	9/1 - 9/7	Individual Causes of Delinquency	Chapter 3	
3	9/8 - 9/14	Social Structure and Delinquency	Chapter 4	Term Paper Topics due by 9/14
4	9/15 - 9/21	Social Process and Delinquency	Chapter 5	
5	9/22 - 9/28	Social Interactionism and Delinquency	Chapter 6	
6	9/29 - 10/5	Developmental Criminology	Supplemental Readings	
7	10/6 - 10/12	Gender and Delinquency	Chapter 7	
8	10/13 - 10/19	Families and Delinquency	Chapter 8	
9	10/20 - 10/26	MIDTERM EXAM		Exam Due 10/26 at noon
10	10/27 - 11/2	Schools and Delinquency Gangs and Delinquency	Chapter 9 Chapter 10	
11	11/3 - 11/9	Drugs and Delinquency	Chapter 11	
12	11/10 - 11/16	Juvenile Justice Process Police and Juveniles	Chapters 12, 13	
13	11/17 - 11/23	Juvenile Court Community Corrections	Chapters 14, 15	Term Paper Due 11/23 at noon
14	11/24 - 11/30	THANKSGIVING		
15	12/1 - 12/3	Juvenile Corrections	Chapter 16	
	12/8 - 12/11	FINAL EXAMS		Exam Due 12/10 at noon