

**Juvenile Delinquency**  
**CJ 5317**  
**Fall, 2016**

**Instructor:** Heath Dingwell, Ph.D.  
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**Additional Documents for the Course:**

Discussion Board Guidelines  
Term Paper Guidelines  
Grade Tracking Spreadsheet

\*All documents can be found in the “Course Documents” section of the course.

**Class Materials**

***Required Text:***

Siegel, Larry J. & Welsh, Brandon C. (2015). *Juvenile Delinquency: Theory, Practice, and Law*, 12th Edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.

***Supplemental Readings***

There will be additional readings almost every week. They will be found in the course units and are always in PDF format.

**Class Description**

The purpose of this course is familiarize you with the different theories (explanations) and risk factors associated with delinquent behavior. This includes the various biological, psychological, and sociological explanations. Some of the history behind these explanations will also be provided since prior work is a direct influence on the leading contemporary theories.

## Criminal Justice Graduate Student Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

- CJ SLO 1** The student will be able to identify, assess and compare policy processes and outcomes in Criminal Justice and various legal challenges to laws and policies within Criminal Justice.
- CJ SLO 2.** The student will be able to identify and apply criminological theories and competing theory arguments.
- CJ SLO 3.** The student will be able to develop a working knowledge of the process and application of the methods of scientific research, including the ability to critique a piece of research based on its methodology and develop the ability to apply research to Criminal Justice and Homeland Security 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 12 - 15 page paper on a topic relevant to juvenile delinquency. 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. Topics need to be approved. Please look at the course schedule for the approval deadline.

### *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.

### *Disability Services*

See your instructor promptly if you are having problems with your course work or are in need of special assistance. Any student needing special assistance on any aspect of the class needs to see the instructor immediately. Qualified students with disabilities needing academic or other accommodations to ensure full participation in the programs, services and activities at Sul Ross State University should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, in Counseling and Prevention Services, Ferguson Hall 112, Box C-117, (837-8203).

***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

On the next page 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 assignments are available within the course modules where each assignment is listed.

Module	Dates	Topics	Readings	Notable Assignments
1	8/22 - 8/28	Childhood and Delinquency	Chapter 1	
2	8/29 - 9/4	Nature of Delinquency	Chapter 2	
3	9/5 - 9/11	Individual Factors and Delinquency	Chapter 3	
4	9/12 - 9/18	Social Factors	Chapter 4	<b>Term Paper Topic approval by 9/18 at noon.</b>
5	9/19 - 9/25	Social Reaction	Chapter 5	
6	9/26 - 10/2	Developmental Theories	Chapter 6 Supplemental	
7	10/3 - 10/9	Gender and Delinquency	Chapter 7	
8	10/10 - 10/16	<b>MIDTERM</b>		<b>Midterm due by 10/16 at noon.</b>
9	10/17 - 10/23	Family and Delinquency	Chapter 8	
10	10/24 - 10/30	Peers and Delinquency	Chapter 9	
	10/31 - 11/6	Schools and Delinquency	Chapter 10	
11	11/7 - 11/13	Drug Use	Chapter 11	<b>Term Paper due by 11/13 at noon.</b>
12	11/14 - 11/20	Delinquency Prevention	Chapter 12	
13	11/21 - 11/27	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
14	11/28 - 12/4	Juvenile Justice	Chapter 15, 16	
15	12/5 - 12/9	FINAL EXAMS		<b>Final Exam Due 12/5 at Noon.</b>