Juvenile Delinquency

Course Description:
This course will examine the extent, nature and cause of juvenile delinquency in the United States, and American society’s response to it. We will begin by developing an understanding of adolescence, and the history of childhood and juvenile justice over time. We will study the major theories and explanations of delinquency, as well as the influence of family, gangs, drugs, schooling and gender on delinquent behavior.

Learning Outcomes:
• Describe and explain the nature of adolescence and the history of childhood over time.
• Describe the extent and nature of juvenile delinquency in the U.S. today and the sources of these data.
• Understand and analyze the major explanations and theories of delinquency.
• Describe and evaluate the social, community, and environmental influences on delinquency, explaining the relationship between gangs, drugs, gender, schools, the family and delinquency

Required Reading:

Additional handouts, reading assignments, and videos will be utilized by the instructor.

**Major Course Requirements**

Exams
There will be three exams in this course. They will consist of essay, multiple choice and true/false questions. Exams will be over class lectures, assigned readings and multimedia presentations. Make-up exams will not be offered except in extenuating circumstances. I retain the right to grant or refuse make-up exam opportunities at my discretion.

Research Assignments
There will be 4 research assignments in this class. Each of these assignments will allow the student to use the critical skills learned in research methods to create a Literature Review, Practical Observation, and a Research Proposal. Rubrics and specific instructions will be made available to the student during the first week of class. Any assignment that is turned in late will be penalized 10 points a day that it is late. There will be NO make-up opportunities for these assignments.
**Attendance/Participation**
Due to the amount of material presented in this class, attendance in this class is mandatory. Each class will begin with a quiz over the assigned readings. You are allowed 2 excused absences; therefore your 2 lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester. There are no make-up quizzes (no exceptions).

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<th>Course Requirements</th>
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<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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**Electronic Resources:**
This class will rely heavily on the Blackboard website. You must pay attention to announcements and class resources. Also, you will turn in your typed assignments using the Drop Box on Blackboard. Blackboard may be accessed here: [https://bb9.tamucc.edu/](https://bb9.tamucc.edu/)

**Extra Credit**
There will be NO opportunities for extra credit in this course, no exceptions.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**
Students are reminded of the university’s strict prohibition against cheating and plagiarism. University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a grade of 0.

Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work. Students should be aware that all quoted material must be put in quotation marks and the reference cited. Paraphrasing requires completely rewriting the material, putting it into your own words. Passing off others’ work as your own is a violation of university academic policy, as is submitting the same paper to another class.

No academic dishonesty will be tolerated. If academic dishonesty is suspected, the disciplinary guidelines in the TAMUCC student code of conduct will be followed.
**Dropping a Class**
Dropping a Class I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**Grade Appeals**
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html) For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

**Classroom/Professional Behavior**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Students are expected to behave courteously and respectfully to everyone. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Statement of Civility**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call (361) 825-3466.
Disabilities Accommodations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University– Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Course Outline: **This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

The detailed Course Outline is available in the Contents area of Blackboard

Important Dates
May 14   Course Introduction/The Nature of Adolescence
May 18   Cognitive Development/Juvenile Justice: Then & Now
May 19   Nature and Extent/Exam 1
May 20   Sexuality and Youth/Supervising and Counseling
May 21   What is a Theory/Social Structure/Social Process
May 25   Memorial Day
May 26   Social Reaction/Exam 2
May 27   Family and Delinquency/Gender and Delinquency/Peers and Delinquency
May 28   Peers and Delinquency/Race/Schools
May 29   Final Exam