

Course Syllabus
CRIJ-4307.001, The Juvenile Justice System
Fall, 2024 | 3 Semester Credit Hours

COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Course Title: The Juvenile Justice System

Course Number and Section: CRIJ-4307.001

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Tuesday/Thursday from 2:00 PM to 3:20 PM, 08/26/2024 - 12/14/2024

Course Location: Stewart Hall, room 127

Instructor Name: Michael Ferguson

Office Location: CAS 134

Phone Number: 903.730.3927

Email: mferguson@uttyler.edu

Best way to contact: By email (please use your official UTT email account!)

Office Hours: MWF 9:20a-10:00a; T/Th 1p-1:45p; or by appointment. We can meet F2F, via Zoom, or via FaceTime.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The history, philosophy, and evaluation of the juvenile court, and juvenile practices and procedures; a study of juvenile law and the role of police, correctional, and treatment officers.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. *Summarize* the evolution of the juvenile justice system in the United States.
2. *Explain* how various philosophies impacted the treatment of youths as juveniles.
3. *Define* the roles and importance of stakeholders as it relates to juvenile justice.
4. *Argue* how juvenile courts, practices, procedures, and intervention programs address the problem of criminal activities committed by youths.
5. *Evaluate* the historical and current challenges of juvenile law.
6. *Review* the challenges of youths and the police in the juvenile justice system.
7. *Recommend and defend* thoughtful solutions to the juvenile justice system.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Mero, A.V. & Benekos, P. J. (2019), *The Juvenile justice system: Delinquency, processing, and the law* (9th ed.). Prentice Hall

ISBN 10: 0-13-481331-6

ISBN 13: 978-0-13-481331-8

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.

ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have access to a computer or tablet with internet access to use UT-Tyler's Canvas LMS. Assignments and quizzes will be handled through Canvas. Additionally, students must have access to, and use of, a word processor (e.g., MS Word or Apple Pages) and presentation software (e.g., MS PowerPoint or Apple Keynote). Work uploaded to Canvas must be in one of the following file formats:

- Documents: .docx, .doc, .pages, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)
- Presentations / graphs: .docx, .doc, .pptx, .ppt, .key, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)

ATTENDANCE

You can't learn if you're not in class. **Attendance in this class is mandatory.** University courses are about learning a wealth of material in a short period of time - with the goal of being able to think critically about the topics at hand. As such, attendance at lecture will greatly increase your ability to understand the field of criminal justice. Additionally, attendance will improve your quiz, project, and final exam grades. You will be allowed one unexcused absence. ***Your attendance in class counts as a quiz grade; each unexcused absence will reduce your attendance grade.***

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates. Please note that quizzes, assignments, and tests will be available for several days, so missing a due date for any given quiz, assignment, or test will translate into a score of zero. There will be no extra credit or extensions to complete a quiz, homework, or test.

1. **Anti-Plagiarism Certificate:** You must complete the free, online anti-plagiarism course from the School of Education at Indiana University - Bloomington. Upon completion of the IU course, you must earn at least 90% on the course's exam and upload a copy of your completion certificate to Canvas. **This certificate is worth 5% of your grade.**
2. **Quizzes:** Reading the assigned chapters puts concepts into action during each end-of-module activity. To help with retention and comprehension of the material, you will complete a short quiz each week. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The quizzes are timed. You may take each quiz up to three times; your highest score earned will count towards your class average. **Quizzes are worth 35% of your grade.**
3. **Final Exam:** The final will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions taken from the material covered during the semester. **Your final exam is worth 30% of your grade.**
4. **Research Paper:** Your academic research paper must be in [APA 7th](#) edition style, a minimum of seven pages of properly formatted text (this does **not** include the title, abstract, and references pages), with a minimum of two peer-reviewed citations. The research paper must be uploaded into Canvas as either docx, .doc, .pages, or.pdf (.pdf is preferred) format. **The research paper is worth 30% of your grade.**

RESEARCH PAPER OVERVIEW

You are to select **one** juvenile intervention program from the following perspectives:

- Treatment
- Delinquency
- Rehabilitation
- Diversion
- Court

The research paper will explore the purpose, philosophy, implementation method, evaluation or analysis, effectiveness, and **your** recommendations to enhance the program you chose. Lectures during the week of **10/07/2024** will cover in detail the expectations for the Academic Research Paper. You **must** meet with me either F2F or virtually (i.e., Zoom or FaceTime) sometime during the week of **11/04/2024** or **11/11/2024** to give me a progress report on your research paper. I will arrange for you to have an appointment so that both of our schedules work for the meeting. I want to see what topic you've chosen, how much you've written to that point, and your research sources. **The completed paper must be submitted NLT SUNDAY, 11/24/2024, at 11:59 p.m.** This assignment **will** be checked for plagiarism through Turn-it-In. Remember that plagiarism will result in, *at the minimum*, a grade of zero for this assignment.

Research Paper FORMATTING Requirements

- Basic Formatting: 1" margins, numbered pages (see [APA7 formatting](#) for how to do this), with running header
- Font: 12-point, either Times New Roman or Calibri preferred (see [APA7](#) for details)
- Spacing: Abstract is single-spaced, body is double-spaced
- Title Page: [APA](#) Title Page
- Body: Seven pages.
- References: [APA-formatted](#) reference section; **minimum** of at least two peer-reviewed citations. You are, of course, free to use more than two!
- Paper Length: **minimum** of seven pages of text.
- Advice: Contact the [UT-Tyler Writing Center](#) if assistance is needed with academic writing, APA7 formatting, or citing sources correctly in APA7. You will need to schedule an appointment with the Writing Center if you want their help; click [HERE](#) to do so.

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

Students who attend a National Night Out Block Party (the evening of Tuesday, 10/01/2024 in your neighborhood) and who submit to the instructor photographic proof of such will earn five extra points on the final exam grade. Note that for those who do not want to attend an NNO Block Party, attending an NNO Block Party is **not** required. Click [HERE](#) to see a short video about National Night Out.

CENSUS DATE

The census date for the Fall, 2024, semester is **September 9th**. Drops/withdrawals after Census Date and before the Last Day to Withdraw will result in a grade of W. Courses dropped prior to

Census Date will not appear on the student's record or the transcript. For more information on withdrawing from classes, see [THIS SECTION](#) of the UTT Catalog.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

The work submitted by students in this course will be generated by themselves. This includes all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, editing, and final products. This extends to group assignments where students must collaboratively create the project. Any instance of the following constitutes a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code: a student has another person/entity do any portion of a graded assignment, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, using a previously submitted assignment and/or using AI tools (such as ChatGPT).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Weekly Schedule for Juvenile Justice System, CRIJ-4307.001				
Week No.	Week Of:	Course Topic	Resource	Assignment/Information
1	08/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction, Course Expectations, Chapter One: An Overview of Juvenile Justice in the United States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Discussion: Chapter One Anti-Plagiarism Certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction/Welcome to class Syllabus review Anti-Plagiarism Certificate due NLT Sunday at 11:59p
2	09/02	Chapter Two: The History of Juvenile Justice and Origins of the Juvenile Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Discussion: Chapter Two 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOTE: Campus closed on Monday, 09/02/2024, for the Labor Day Holiday Chap. 1 Quiz due NLT Sunday at 11:59p Chap. 2 Quiz due NLT Sunday at 11:59p
3-4	09/09 and 09/16	Chapter Three: Theories of Delinquency and Intervention Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Discussion: Chapter Three 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday, 09/09/2024: Census Date Chap. 3 Quiz due NLT Sunday at 11:59p
5-6	09/23 and 09/30	Chapter Four: The Legal Rights of Juveniles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Discussion: Chapter Four 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chap. 4 Quiz due NLT Sunday at 11:59p
7	10/07	Chapter Five: Juveniles and the Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Discussion: Chapter Five Overview of research paper requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chap. 5 Quiz due NLT Sunday at 11:59p Start work your research paper. It's due 11/24/2024.
8	10/14	Chapter Six: Intake and Pre-adjudicatory Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Discussion: Chapter Six 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chap. 6 Quiz due NLT Sunday at 11:59p Do research for your research paper

9	10/21	Chapter Seven: Prosecutorial Decision Making in Juvenile Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Discussion: Chapter Seven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chap. 7 Quiz due NLT Sunday at 11:59p Do research for your research paper
10	10/28	Chapter Eight: Classification and Preliminary Treatment Waivers and Other Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Discussion: Chapter Eight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chap. 8 Quiz due NLT Sunday at 11:59p Work on your research paper
11	11/04	Chapter Nine: The Adjudicatory Process Dispositional Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Discussion: Chapter Nine Progress check on Research Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chap. 8 Quiz due NLT Sunday at 11:59p Work on your research paper
12	11/11	Chapter 10: Nominal Sanctions: Warnings, Diversion, and Alternative Dispute Resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Discussion: Chapter 10 Progress check on Research Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chap. 10 Quiz due NLT Sunday at 11:59p Work on your research paper - it's due next week!
13	11/18	Chapter 11: Juvenile Probation and Community-Based Corrections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Discussion: Chapter 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chap. 11 Quiz due NLT Sunday at 11:59p RESEARCH PAPER DUE NLT SUNDAY AT 11:59p!
14	11/25	THANKSGIVING BREAK	THANKSGIVING BREAK	THANKSGIVING BREAK
15	12/02	Chapter 12: Juvenile Corrections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Discussion: Chapter 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chap. 12 Quiz due NLT Sunday at 11:59p Prep for comprehensive final exam
16	12/09	Final Exam	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam

STUDENT RESOURCES

[Student Resources](#)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND INFORMATION

[University Policies and Information](#)

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT COURSE MATERIAL

The material presented in this class covers concepts from the mundane to the contentious. It is imperative that all participants understand the importance of keeping discussions civil and

appropriate. We will not have a class where individuals are belittled or berated because of a particular opinion on a topic. Ad hominem attacks are the refuge of those who are unable to discuss a position in a scholarly manner. Remember former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt's take on this issue: "Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people." One of my favorite quotes on this topic is from [Larry Winget](#). He wrote,

To College Students: You don't need safe-zones to protect your fragile ego. You need big, new, scary ideas that challenge your beliefs and expand your thinking. You need ideas that will offend you, hurt your feelings, stomp on your toes, and make you mad. This is necessary for growth and learning. So stop being offended by everything. Stop being a victim. Grow up.

I'm not asking you to agree with one another; I'm asking you to be civil, thoughtful, and willing to listen. One of the primary ways you learn during your university education is by being exposed to multiple points of view and ideas other than your own. I encourage a spirited, lively, and scholarly discussion of the myriad topics we'll cover. I believe that groupthink is a horrible thing, so I encourage you to research the topic and present your ideas. Don't agree with others simply because it's the easy thing to do. Be yourself and be willing to stand up for your beliefs. Having written the paragraphs above, though, I need to make sure you understand something very important: if you make an assertion of fact, you need to check your source of information and be able to cite the source(s). [Just because something is on the Internet doesn't mean it's true](#). Where did you find your information? Is it a valid, scholarly source? Did the author have a political or personal agenda? Did he or she play fast and loose with the facts? In the words of President Ronald Reagan, "trust, but verify!"