

San Jose State University; Fall Semester 2009
Justice Studies Department
JS120 – JUVENILE JUSTICE
Tuesdays; 5:30 pm to 8:15 pm/MH 520

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**Pamela Serrano, Lecturer**

**Office Hrs: Tuesdays, 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm (drop in); Rm 528**

**Additional days and times by appointment only**

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to give students knowledge of the historical development and current legal processes involving status offenders, delinquent, dependent and dual-status minors within the juvenile justice system. Students will be introduced to the dynamics of the numerous agencies, boards and commissions within this system and the legal language and terms specific to juveniles. Prevention and rehabilitation will also be discussed with additional focus on recidivism among the juvenile offender population. Subject material will be presented through lectures, guest speakers, textbook readings, group and individual activities, special assignment projects, and supplemental resource materials.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

Siegel, L. and Welsh, B. (2009) *Juvenile Delinquency: Theory, Practice, and 10<sup>th</sup> Ed.*, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publ. Co.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Make-up assignments will be considered only for students who miss class because of an emergency or illness and provide written documentation for that absence. Make-up assignments must be pre-approved and due dates for such assignments will be determined by the instructor.

There will be two midterm exams and one final exam (75 points each) which consist of short answer, true or false, fill-in the blank and multiple-choice questions. The lowest exam score will be dropped and only the two highest exam scores will be included in the final grade (150 points total).\*\* For this reason, make-up exams will not be allowed under any circumstances.

Students will also be required to submit two writing projects and to participate in a group debate special topic assignment. Students will be required to maintain and keep current a vocabulary log. Additionally, (announced and unannounced) pop and vocabulary quizzes will be given throughout the semester.

**CLASS SUBJECT MATTER AND MATERIAL CONTENT:**

*Week #1* Course Introduction; Due Dates, Syllabus and Textbook Review

*Week #2* The Concept of Delinquency (Part I, Chapters 1 and 2; Part 4, Chapter 13)

*Week #3* Social, Community and Environmental Influences Cont'd (Chapters 10 and 11)

*Week #4* Social, Community and Environmental Influences on Delinquency (Chapters 7, 8 and 9)

*Week #5* First Midterm

*Week #6* Theories of Delinquency (Part 2, Chapters 3 and 4)

*Week #7* Theories of Delinquency Cont'd (Part 2, Chapters 5 and 6)

*Week #8* The Juvenile Justice System (Part 4, Chapter 15)

*Week #9* The Dependency Court System and Dual Status Minors

*Week #10* Second Midterm

*Week #11* Police and Corrections (Part 4, Chapters 14 and 16)

*Week #12* Agencies within the Juvenile Justice System

*Week #13* Prevention, Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice and Special Topic Group Debates

*Week #14* Special Topic Group Debates

*Week #15* **FINAL EXAM**

(Please note that this schedule is tentative depending on the availability of guest speakers.)

**COURSE GRADE ASSESSMENT:**

|                                           |                    |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Special Project Assignment                | 50 points          |
| Vocabulary Quizzes                        | 50 points (total)  |
| Class Discussion/Participation Activities | 110 points (total) |
| Pop Quizzes                               | 40 points (total)  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Writing Project           | 50 points          |

|                                             |                           |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Writing Project             | 50 points                 |
| Midterms and Final Exam (two at 75 pt ea)** | <u>150 points (total)</u> |
| TOTAL AVAILABLE POINTS                      | 500 points                |

**THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE HELD ON**

**Participation Points:** A maximum of 10 points can be earned each class meeting through group activities, individual oral contributions to lecture material and/or written questions regarding subject matter presented in class. Students who do not participate will lose a maximum of 10 participation points per class meeting. There will be no makeup assignments for participation point.

**Textbook Readings:** Textbook reading assignments will be announced at the end of each class session. All students must be prepared to discuss these readings at the next scheduled class and preparation to do so will be reflected in either the weekly grading for class participation and/or pop and vocabulary quizzes.

**Guest Speakers:** Guest speakers will be scheduled as available and as time permits.

**Group Debate Special Topic Assignment:** This assignment will be introduced at the beginning of the semester and assignment instructions will be provided throughout the semester.

**Vocabulary Log:** Students will be required to maintain a vocabulary log, which will further develop students' knowledge of the juvenile justice system. Announced and unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the semester to test students' knowledge of this material. Students will be required to bring this log to each class meeting.

**Community-Based Organizations:** Students will be introduced to various organizations, committees and groups which collaborate to provide services to those individuals involved in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Students may be tested on this material in pop quizzes.

**CLASS RULES AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time, unless arrangements are otherwise made with the instructor prior to class. Students are required to turn off all pagers and cell phones BEFORE CLASS BEGINS, and classroom disruptions in any form will not be tolerated. Text messaging will not be allowed during class. Laptop computers may be used for note taking only and may be used only with prior approval from the instructor. Lecture notes will not be provided by the instructor. In the event of an absence, students must rely on other classmates to obtain information provided in a missed class. Make a buddy in class!!!!

Plagiarism and cheating will immediately be reported to the Department Chair. Students are referred to [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct) and <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm> for further information in this regard.

**COURSE ADD/DROP REQUIREMENTS:**

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Students are referred to [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct) for procedures and policies regarding add and/or withdraw classes, academic renewal, and other student responsibilities. Students are reminded these are not instructor's responsibilities.

**AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT:**

Students are asked to report any and all necessary accommodations and adaptations to the instructor as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.