

San Jose State University; Spring Semester 2010
Justice Studies Department
JS120, Section 1– JUVENILE JUSTICE
Tuesdays; 3:00 pm to 5:45 pm/MH 523

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**Pamela Serrano, Lecturer**

**Office Hrs: Tuesdays, 2:30 pm to 3:00 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.

1. ***Lecture material outlines and summaries*** will be provided to students in ***Power Point slides***. Students will receive these slides one or two weeks prior to the class meeting during which this material will be introduced. Students who do not have email access must meet with the instructor before the second class meeting to make other arrangements to receive this material.
2. ***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 meeting and preparation to do so will be reflected in either the weekly grading for class participation and/or pop and vocabulary quizzes.

3. 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).\*\* **VERY IMPORTANT - For this reason, make-up exams will not be allowed.**

A review of all material to be included on these exams will be provided to students at the class meeting prior to each exam. The instructor will also be available after this class meeting for any students wishing further review prior to the scheduled exam.

4. ***Vocabulary Log:*** Students will be required to maintain and keep current a vocabulary log, which will further develop students' knowledge of the juvenile justice system. The words, terms, phrases and definitions for this log will be provided to students at each class meeting. Students are required to bring this log to each and every class meeting, as announced and unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the semester to test students' knowledge of this material. Students will also be required to incorporate material from this log into other class assignments.
5. Students will be assigned ***two writing projects*** throughout the semester regarding material covered in class lecture. Each assignment must be two pages, double spaced and must incorporate material from the vocabulary log.
6. Students will be required to participate in a ***group debate special topic assignment***. This assignment will be introduced to students at the first class meeting. Additionally, a detailed written and thorough verbal description of the assignment will be provided to students the second week of the semester. Students will be reminded throughout the semester about what is expected of them in this project and the instructor will be available to assist groups in preparation of this activity upon request.
7. ***Guest Speakers:*** Guest speakers may be scheduled as available and as time permits. Students may be tested on material presented by these speakers.
8. ***Announced and unannounced quizzes*** on the ***group debate special topic discussions, vocabulary log, class lecture, lecture slides and guest speaker information*** will be given throughout the semester.
9. ***Participation Points:*** A maximum of 10 points can be earned each class meeting in 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 points.  
***HINT: Opportunities to earn participation points are often offered at the end of each class meeting.***

10. **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 SUBJECT MATTER AND MATERIAL CONTENT:**

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

**Week #2** 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, Begin Special Topic Group Debates

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

**Week #14** Special Topic Group Debates

**Week #15** Special Topic Group Debates

**Week #16** \*\*\*\*\* **FINAL EXAM** \*\*\*\*\*

**NOTE: This schedule is tentative depending on the availability of guest speakers and the instructor's mandatory furlough days (TBA).**

**\*\*\*\*\*THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, May 25, 2010 at 3 pm.**  
**This exam is not cumulative!**

**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                |

**CLASS RULES**

**Students are expected to arrive to class on time, unless arrangements are otherwise made with the instructor prior to class. Leaving class early WILL result in a loss of participation points. 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 will not be permitted in class!!! 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!!!!**

**COMMON EXCUSES AND STUDENT DILEMMAS TO AVOID:**

**Students are responsible for the preservation and reproduction of all work in class. This means that assignments will not be accepted if turned in late because they were misplaced or lost due to computer crashes or printer malfunctions. Assignments will also not be accepted by email, unless specifically approved in advance by the instructor. Additionally, students are strong urged to keep all graded assignments throughout the semester to ensure the instructor's recording these grades is accurate. This will eliminate potential misunderstandings about work submitted and grades earned.**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests or quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. We all share the obligation

to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University.

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. For plagiarism and cheating definitions refer to the academic dishonesty policy S98-1 which can be found at <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/plagarismpolicies>.

### **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. Instructors are not required to drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. **It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped.**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. 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 because of a disability to the instructor as soon as possible. All students needing special arrangements in the event of building evacuations, should also meet with the instructor as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.