Index Number: CJUS 430

Course Title: Critical Issues in Juvenile Justice

Credit Hours: 3.0

Trimester: Fall 2006

Day/Time: Monday 9:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.
(Block 1)

Instructor: Dr. Wilson
E-mail: b-wilson@govst.edu

Office: E-2551

Office Hours: Monday 3:50 p.m. - 7:20 p.m.
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Phone: (708) 534-3141 - (Office)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

An examination of the critical issues and special problems challenging the contemporary juvenile justice system. The topics will include an analysis of youth violence; gang violence; school crime; teenage pregnancy; juvenile victimization; child poverty, abuse, neglect, and homelessness; the child welfare system; and teen substance abuse. Factors in American society that generate or influence delinquency and dependency will also be explored.

PREREQUISITES:

CJUS 330 or equivalent, or permission of instructor

COURSE RATIONALE:

This is an upper level course in the criminal justice curricular sequence for all students interested in advanced in-depth study of the critical issues
confronting the contemporary juvenile justice system. This course will assist students in integrating and synthesizing the most current research, problems, trends, and policies facing today’s youth. Topics addressed in the course include juvenile violence; child poverty, neglect, and abuse; family preservation and children’s rights; the child welfare system; and juvenile victims of crime.

INTENDED AUDIENCE:

Criminal Justice majors/minors and those students who wish to get an comprehensive understanding of criminal justice from the juvenile justice prospective.

PLAGIARISM:

Representing another’s words or ideas as your own is plagiarism. It is the student’s responsibility to become educated on plagiarism and proper formatting. Turning in plagiarized work may result in a failing grade for the course and could possibly lead to further disciplinary action within the University as defined by the student handbook.

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

Students, who have a disability or special needs and require accommodation in order to have equal access to the classroom, must register with the designated staff member in the Division of Student Development. Please go to Room B1202 or call (708) 534-4090 and ask for the Coordinator of Disability when an accommodation is requested.

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES/COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. To provide the student with an in-depth review of the factors endangering American children; poverty, abuse, neglect, homelessness, substance abuse, and crime victimization.

2. To understand the extent and complexities of youth violence in American society.

3. To develop an understanding of society’s responses to juvenile problems and issues.
4. To develop a critical understanding of the persistent problems and special issues confronting the contemporary juvenile justice system.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMINATIONS:

1. Students will attend a field trip to a juvenile agency and observe the process of the juvenile justice system and should be prepared to discuss it in class. Students are responsible for a 5-page paper describing the experience. The paper and the discussion are worth 20 percent of the final grade.

2. Students will take four exams that consist of essay questions. Each examination is worth 20 percent of the final grade.

GRADING/EVALUATION:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = Below 60

1. Class attendance and participation will also be considered in cases of borderline grades. No “extra-credit” may be earned.

2. All students are expected to adhere to the Governors State University Honor Code, especially in respect to cheating and plagiarism. Any infractions will result in an “F” grade for the course as well as other sanctions.
TOPICAL OUTLINE AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1 - Introduction to Course and Overview

Week 2 - Chapter 1 - What Factors Put Teens at Risk

Week 3 - Chapter 2 - How Can Society Deal with Teenage Crime and Violence

Week 4 - Examination #1, October 2, 2006

Week 5 - Chapter 3 - How Can Teen Pregnancy be Prevented

Week 6 - Chapter 4 - What Role Do the Media and Government Play in the Problems of Teen Substance Abuse

Week 7 - Examination #2, October 23, 2006

Week 8 - Chapter 1 - Are Juvenile Crime and Violence Increasing

Week 9 - Chapter 2 - What Causes Juvenile Crime and Violence

Week 10 - Examination #3, November 13, 2006

Week 11 - Chapters 3 - What Factors Contribute to Gang-Related Juvenile Crime

Week 12 - Chapter 4 - How Can Juvenile Crime and Violence be Combated

Week 13 - Class Presentations, December 4, 2006
Papers Due, December 4, 2006

Week 14 - Examination #4, December 11, 2006

Week 15 - Consultation Day, December 18, 2006

*Date of assignments/examinations may change, but students will be given prior notice. Unless given prior permission, exams taken later than the provided date will be lowered two letter grades.