

**CJUS/SOC 106 - Juvenile Justice in America**  
**Course Syllabus – Winter, 2009**

Ron Bradbury, Instructor  
Office Hours: 12:30 to 3:00 PM  
Room: 2122 / Phone: 538-4143  
e-mail: [rbradbur@ghc.ctc.edu](mailto:rbradbur@ghc.ctc.edu)

**Introduction**

*Juvenile Justice in America* will introduce students to a justice system that has been specifically designed to deal with the problems of our youth. We will look at the history and philosophy of our justice system, as well as the involvement of juveniles in criminal activity, and the reasons why our young people are committing serious and violent crimes. The roles of the family, the school, the church, our society, and the justice system will be discussed. We will try to answer the age-old question of: "What can we do to keep our children from becoming delinquent?"

**Desired Student Outcomes and Abilities**

The major objectives of this course are as follows:

- \* demonstrate an understanding of the juvenile justice system and how it impacts him/her
- \* be able to identify the components of the juvenile justice system and describe how these components interact with one another
- \* become aware of the philosophical theories of why youth commit crimes and the methods used in rehabilitation efforts of juvenile offenders
- \* research case law relative to juvenile court decisions and discuss their impact on juvenile justice within Grays Harbor County
- \* demonstrate his/her knowledge of the material through topic discussion and written examination

**Course Material**

*"Juvenile Justice: A Guide to Theory and Practice"*  
by Cox, Conrad, and Allen

**Course Outline**

Week One

Introduction and review of course requirements  
**Chapter 1: Juvenile Justice in Historical Perspective**  
The Child Savers  
A New Beginning  
Review and Discussion

Week Two

The Philosophy of Juvenile Justice  
**Chapter 2: Defining and Measuring Offenses By and Against Juveniles**  
Uniform Crime Report  
**Chapter 3: Characteristics of Juvenile Offenders**  
Review and Discussion

Week Three

Gender and Delinquency  
The Extent of Male and Female Delinquency  
**Chapter 4: Theories of Crime Causation**  
Review and Discussion  
**Test No. 1**

Week Four

From Classical Criminology to Biosocial Thought  
The Family and Delinquency  
The School and Delinquency  
Society and Delinquency  
Review and Discussion

Week Five

**Chapter 5: Purpose and Scope of Juvenile Court Acts**  
Delinquent Youth  
Status Offender and Youth At-Risk  
Review and Discussion  
**Test No. 2**

Week Six

**Chapter 6: Juvenile Justice Procedures**  
Rights of Juveniles  
**Chapter 7: Juveniles and the Police**  
Police and Juvenile Interactions  
Review and Discussion

Week Seven

Making the Arrest  
Police Investigations

SRO / DARE / GREAT  
Review and Discussion  
**Test No. 3**

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Week Eight

**Chapter 8:** *Key Figures in Juvenile Court Proceedings*  
Probation Officers  
Children and Family Services  
**Chapter 9:** *Prevention and Diversion Programs*  
Review and Discussion

Week Nine

**Chapter 10:** *Dispositional Alternatives*  
Juvenile Probation Aftercare  
Juvenile Parole Aftercare  
Review and Discussion  
**Test No. 4**

Week Ten

**Chapter 11:** *Violence By and Against Youth*  
Children as Criminals  
Children as Witnesses  
Children as Victims  
Review and Discussion

Week Eleven

Juveniles and the Death Penalty  
**Chapter 12:** *Gangs*  
From Los Angeles to Small Town America  
Gangs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Review and Discussion

Week Twelve

**Test No. 5**

**Course Requirements**

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**Testing** - five written exams will be given throughout the quarter, each consisting of 60 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each; students will select any 50 questions to answer. The lowest test score of the first four tests will be thrown out (*non-excused make-up exams will be essay*)

**Total points = 400**

**Attendance** - students will receive 2 points per class session for attendance, and are encouraged to participate in classroom discussions. Students who miss class for medical reasons and show a doctor's appointment slip will be excused, as will students who miss class due to a college activity. (*Students who leave during the class without prior arrangement with the instructor will lose their 2 points for the day.*)

**Total points = 100**

**Discussion Topics** - various topics regarding juvenile justice will be passed-out during the quarter for class discussion; test questions relating to these topics will be on the following exam.

**Grading**

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A+	485 – 500	B+	435 – 450	C+	381 – 400	D+	321 – 340
A	468 – 484	B	418 – 434	C	361 – 380	D	301 – 320
A-	451 – 467	B-	401 – 417	C-	341 – 360	D-	281 – 300