

Las Positas College  
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### Course Outline for AJ 56

## FUNDAMENTALS OF CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Effective: Spring 2016

### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

AJ 56 — FUNDAMENTALS OF CRIME AND DELINQUENCY — 3.00 units

Survey of the sociological and psychological theories pertaining to the causation of crime and delinquency. Includes ethnic considerations and their relationships

3.00 Units Lecture

#### Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

#### Discipline:

	<b>MIN</b>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

### II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

### III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. explain the history of and legal basis for the criminal justice system and of juvenile offenders within it;
- B. list the major causes of delinquent conduct and criminal activity;
- C. discuss at least six major theories of the etiology of crime and delinquency;
- D. explain the gang involvement of juveniles and its contributions to crime;
- E. describe the steps taken through the juvenile justice system from arrest to final disposition of the case;
- F. explain current controversies regarding the justice system and the place of juveniles within it;
- G. list the principal treatment methods employed within the criminal justice system;
- H. describe specialized units within the justice system that deal with juvenile crime.

### V. CONTENT:

- A. Orientation to the criminal justice system
  1. History
  2. The criminal and health and safety codes
  3. The interrelationship between the justice system and community agencies
  4. The role of surveys and scientific studies
- B. Major causes of delinquent conduct
  1. Home and peer environment
  2. Role of gangs and drugs
  3. Physiological explanations, including genetic theories
- C. Etiology of Crime and delinquency
  1. Major theories
  2. Contradictions
  3. Social impact
  4. Culture
  5. Ethnic considerations
  6. Types of offenders
- D. Moving through the system
  1. Interrogation and arrest
  2. Processing and detention
    - a. Original referral
    - b. Reprimand and release
    - c. Referral to other agencies
    - d. Case study and detention
    - e. Final disposition
  3. Issues regarding the position of juveniles within the justice system
    - a. Role of prevention
    - b. Treatment versus punishment
    - c. Responsibility versus age and intelligence
    - d. Treating juveniles as adults

4. Treatment options
  - a. Psychiatric evaluation
  - b. Treatment within the system
  - c. Use of outside agencies
5. Specialized units for dealing with delinquent behavior
  - a. Agency jurisdictions and relationships
  - b. Role of the juvenile officer
  - c. Task forces dealing with gangs, drugs, and delinquency

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Discussion** -
- C. **Directed Study** -
- D. **Guest Lecturers** -
- E. **Field Trips** -
- F. **Audio-visual Activity** -

#### VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Provide written and oral answers to questions at the end of textbook chapters.
- B. Write a research report on a specific issue of juveniles within the criminal justice system.
- C. Create brief oral and written presentations on current events featured in newspaper and television coverage.
- D. Research the issue to be presented by a upcoming guest speaker and prepare discussion questions.

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

##### A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Research Projects
4. Papers
5. Oral Presentation
6. Class Participation

##### B. **Frequency**

1. Attendance and participation will be evaluated daily
2. Quizzes and oral presentations will be completed throughout the semester
3. Midterm and brief written report will be submitted midway through the semester
4. Midterm and final will occur at the appropriate times

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Shoemaker, D.J. (2013). *Juvenile Delinquency* (2nd ed.). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Pub, Inc..
2. Whitehead, J.T., & Lab, S.P. (2013). *Juvenile Justice: Introduction* (7th ed.). New York, NY: Anderson Publishing.
3. Elrod, P., & Ryder, R.S. (2014). *Juvenile Justice: A Social, Historical, and Legal Perspective, Fourth Edition* (4th ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

#### X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: