

I. COURSE INFORMATION

- A. Sociology 110 Juvenile Delinquency and Justice
- B. 3 credit hours
- C. Siegel, L. J. and B. C. Welsh. *Juvenile Delinquency: Theory, Practice, and Law*. 13th ed. Kentucky: Cengage, 2018
- D. Prerequisites: None

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the historical precedents and philosophical reasons for treating juveniles differently from adults. It reviews empirical evidence about child development that can illuminate the reasons for their special status within the system. It will study the major theories that have been proposed as explanations of delinquent behavior. The course will also provide a detailed overview of the juvenile justice system, from its beginnings to the current state of the institution.

III. LEARNING OUTCOMES

- A. Learn about the nature and extent of juvenile delinquency in the United States
- B. Become familiar with and critically evaluate the major theories that have been developed as explanations for the onset of, continuation in and desistance from delinquency
- C. Think critically and analytically about the role of environmental factors such as family, peers, schools, and race in child development and delinquency
- D. Learn about society's response to delinquency through informal and formal mechanisms of control
- E. Understand youth crime and the development of a separate juvenile justice system
- F. Analyze the roles of police, courts, the justice system and treatment programs for juvenile offenders
- G. Describe the role of the police, courts, and the juvenile justice system in addressing delinquency
- H. Evaluate treatment programs for juvenile offenders

IV. MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

- A. The concept of delinquency
- B. Theories of delinquency
- C. Social, community, and environmental influences on delinquency
- D. The juvenile justice system

I. ASSIGNMENTS (may include but are not limited to)

- A. Reading assignments
- B. Discussion forums
- C. Quizzes and exams

II. EVALUATION METHODS (may include but are not limited to)

- A. Reading assignments
- B. Discussion forums
- C. Quizzes and exams