

CRJ 180 – Juvenile Delinquency and Justice

Course Description

This course examines the criminal activity of juveniles and includes the study of gangs, status offenses, and the problems facing juveniles today. An overview of American juvenile justice is also provided, in terms of both system and practice. The causes of juvenile crime, the juvenile court system, and the institutionalization, rehabilitation, and treatment of juveniles are explored.

Instructional Materials

Taylor, R.W., Fritsch, E.J., & Caeti, T.J. (2011). *Juvenile justice: Policies, programs, and practices* (Custom). (3rd ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe what it means to be an adolescent in American society today.
2. Explain how delinquents have been handled throughout history.
3. Differentiate between various theoretical explanations for delinquent behavior.
4. Illustrate how social factors such as gender, racial and ethnic background, and social class relate to delinquency.
5. Apply theories of gang formation to the development of youthful offenders.
6. Explore the relationship of illicit drugs, gangs, and forms of delinquency.
7. Explicate the types of prevention programs that are likely to work with high-risk youngsters.
8. Identify successful evidence-based treatment modalities for juvenile delinquents and be able to describe the ingredients of effective programs.
9. Identify the interaction among the various stages of the juvenile justice process.
10. Contrast the differences between the juvenile and adult justice system in the United States.