**Syllabus: Spring 2014**

Northern Virginia Community College

Course Name: Juvenile Justice System

Course Number: ADJ 105

Section Number: 002A-#15224

Meeting Times: Friday 9:30 am – 12:20 pm

Meeting Location: Bisdorf AA-360

Instructor Name: **Tim Dickinson**

Telephone Number: **703-933-8083**

E-mail Address: [tdickinson@nvcc.edu](mailto:tdickinson@nvcc.edu)

[http://blogs.nvcc.edu/tdickinson/](https://mail.nvcc.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=e4af37c7e13742b589970494af58d20f&URL=http%3a%2f%2fblogs.nvcc.edu%2ftdickinson%2f)

**This syllabus is a guide. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as needed.**

**Course Materials**

Required Readings

1. Champion, Dean John. Merlo, Alida V. Benekos, Peter J.2013. The Juvenile Justice System - Delinquency, Processing, and the Law (7th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

**Course Description**

Presents the evolution, philosophy, structures and processes of the American juvenile delinquency system; surveys the right of juveniles, dispositional alternatives, rehabilitation methods, and current trends. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

The purpose of the course is to provide the student with an overview of the juvenile offender, the types of violations committed by them, reasons for the misbehavior, and how our juvenile legal system works to rehabilitate the offender.

**Course Objectives**

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

* explain the functioning of the juvenile justice system (law enforcement, juvenile court and juvenile corrections)
* state causes of youth crime and the role of the citizen in helping their young people

- describe the importance of rehabilitative and reductive efforts in both juvenile and adult crime

**Major Topics to be Included**

• History of juvenile crime and attempts by society to deal with it

• Philosophy of our juvenile justice system

• Role of law enforcement

• The Juvenile Court (judge, probation officer)

• Juvenile detention

• Crime causation theories

• Child abuse

• Runaways

• Child pornography

• Supreme Court decisions and their impact

• Constitutional rights of juveniles

• Youth gangs

• Peer group influences

• Family responsibilities

**Course Requirements and Grading**

* Four Examinations (300 points total – lowest exam grade dropped)
* Written Assignment (30 points)
* Attendance and Participation (100 points)

**Grading Scale**

100%-90% - A 69%-60% - D

89%-80 – B Below 60 - F

79%-70% - C

**Description of Course Requirements**

**Examinations**

There will be four examinations. **I will drop the lowest test grade.** Examinations may consist of true/false, multiple choice, fill-in the blank and essay questions. There will be a maximum of 50 questions per examination and the examination will cover materials presented during lectures and from the textbook. **Study guides will be provided.**

There will be absolutely no make–up or early exams. Failure to take the exam when scheduled will result in the grade of “0” for the missed exam. That missed exam will constitute the “dropped” exam.

***There will be no opportunity for extra credit assignments so it is important that you satisfy the stated requirements.***

**Attendance and Participation**

Attendance for each class is required. One-hundred points ofyour final grade is based on your attendance and participation in the class. Each missed class will result in a seven (6) point deduction from the attendance grade (100 points).

Attendance for each class is required. I usually take attendance at the beginning and end of each class. Each half of class is worth 3 points. If you are late, or leave early you will lose 3 points. I will make a determination for any attendance/participation points earned each class.

Read the textbook before class, and be prepared to ask and answer questions. If you attended class and participate, there is good chance the 89 (B) will become a 90 (A).

**Policies and Procedures**

Classroom civility – students are expected to respect each other and the instructor. Students should not disrupt class by arriving late, leaving early and/or by unnecessary talking or use of electronic devices. Students may be asked to leave class for any disruptions.

**Should you choose to bring a laptop/tablet/smart phone to class it must only be used for course activities.**

When in class **please do not sleep**, write notes to each other, read newspapers, do homework for any class, listen to music, or engage in activity that may disturb others.

*Please turn your phone on vibrate!!*

**Fire/Emergency Evacuation Procedures**: The evacuation route is located on the wall next to the classroom door. Please familiarize yourself with this route. In case of an emergency, take all of your belongings with you when/if possible.

**Inclement Weather and Other Closing Information**: Please check NOVA’s website (www.nvcc.edu) for information about weather closings and if class is cancelled, check Blackboard for assignment information. Students are strongly encouraged to sign up for NOVA Alert: <https://alert.nvcc.edu/index.php?CCheck=1>.

**Special Accommodations**: Any student who thinks that he or she might need an accommodation based on a disability should make an appointment to see a Counselor for Disability Services (Bisdorf Room 193). Additional information can be found here: <http://www.nvcc.edu/current-students/disability-services/index.html>.

**\* Students are urged to contact the instructor with any special circumstances.**

**Office Hours:**

Room - Bisdorf #352

Wednesday: 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

By Appointment: Tuesday 9:30 am – Noon and 3:30 pm – 6 pm

or see me before or after class for an appointment.

**Course of Study**  TOPIC /READINGS

**Jan 17 Course Orientation**

**Jan 24 Overview of the Juvenile Justice System Chapter 1**

**Jan 31 History of Juvenile Justice System Chapter 2**

**Feb 7 Theories Chapter 3**

**Written Assignment – Given to class**

**Feb 14 Exam 1 Chapters (1-3)**

**Legal Rights of Juveniles Chapter 4**

**Feb 21 Juveniles and Police Chapter 5**

**Feb 28 Intake and Preadjudicatory Processing Chapter 6**

**March 7 Exam 2 Chapters (4-6)**

**Guest Speaker**

**March 14 Spring Break No Class**

**March 21 Prosecutorial Decisions Chapter 7**

**March 28 Classification and Preliminary Treatment Chapter 8**

**Written Assignment Due in class**

**April 4 The Adjudicatory Process Chapter 9**

**April 11 Exam 3 Chapters (7-9)**

**Guest Speaker**

**April 18 Nominal Sanctions Chapter 10**

**April 25 Juvenile Probation Chapter 11**

**May 2 Juvenile Corrections Chapter 12**

**May 9 Exam 4 Chapters (10-12)**

**Key Dates**

Jan 13 Classes begin

Jan 13-21 Schedule adjustments (add/drop/swap) open to all

Jan 13-30 Drop a class on NOVAConnect for a tuition refund

Jan 22-28 Late schedule additions (in person), permission required

Jan 30 Last day to drop a class with a tuition refund or change to audit

March 1 Last day to apply for Spring Graduation (earlier application is encouraged)

March 10-16 Spring break for students. Non-Instructional days. No classes. College offices open March 10-14

March 24 Last day to withdraw without grade penalty

April 28- May 3 Last week of classes

May 10 Examinations end