Department:

Criminal Justice

Course Description:

This course provides a contemporary approach to understanding the nature of juvenile delinquency. The course will cover the evolution of juvenile rights in America, juvenile court processes, risk factors for delinquency, and prevention methods.

Course Competencies:

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

1. Outline the history and evolution of how children have been treated in American society.
2. Describe the major forces that brought about change in how children are viewed, treated, prosecuted, and punished in the American justice system.
3. Explain the terminology differences between juvenile court processes and adult criminal court processes.
4. Summarize causation theories, laws, policies, and practices in dealing with delinquency.
5. Describe the structure and role of the Juvenile Justice Authority in Kansas and the juvenile justice code.
6. Describe the transfer mechanisms of youth tried as adults in the adult system.
7. Describe the punishment structures for troubled youth and explain the balance needed between public safety and treatment for the juvenile offender.
8. Describe delinquency prevention strategies for society and summarize the cost rationale in funding them.

Course Content:

A. History and Nature of Delinquency
   1. How children have traditionally been dealt with by American society
   2. Evolution of juvenile rights with the landmark ruling of In re Gault
   3. Goals of juvenile justice and how they have changed with time
B. Basic Child Development and Correlation to Causal Factors of Delinquency
   1. Biological, social, and psychological risk factors associated with delinquent behavior
   2. Limitations of delinquency theories and the applicability in treatment options for troubled youth
C. Social, Family, Educational, and Environmental Influences on Delinquency
   1. Gender and delinquency
   2. Family and delinquency
   3. Schools, peers, and delinquency
D. The Juvenile Justice System
   1. Definition of crime and measurement of crime
2. Differences between status offenses, children in need of care, and juvenile offenders
3. Differences between the typical child who has contact with the system and chronic juvenile offenders
4. Terminology associated with delinquents to prevent them from the self-fulfilling prophecies of labeling
5. Basic workings of the juvenile court system, the court room work group, and the judicial authority in juvenile cases

E. The Role of Juvenile Punishment and Correction.
1. Goals of juvenile punishment and how the system attempts to divert troubled youth away from the system
2. Ways to involve the support of the community in juvenile crime prevention efforts
3. The role and conditions of probation
4. Out of home placements, residential living, and secure confinements and the long-term consequences of each for the offender, family, and society

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by regular class assignments, an employment assignment, Web-based research assignment, film review, exams, and a comprehensive final exam.

Instructional Materials:

ISBN: 978-0-495-80986-9

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.

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