

Syllabus for Juvenile Delinquency - Spring Semester 2025

Point Loma Nazarene University

Course Description: This course offers an in-depth examination of juvenile delinquency, emphasizing social, legal, and political factors that influence the juvenile justice system. Through critical analysis of seminal texts and current research, students will engage with theories of delinquency and explore reformative measures aimed at system improvement.

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Required Texts:

1. *Delinquency and Juvenile Justice in American Society, Third Edition* by Randall G. Shelden and Emily I. Troshynski
2. *Burning Down the House: The End of Juvenile Prison* by Nell Bernstein

Course Objectives:

- Analyze the causes and consequences of juvenile delinquency.
- Understand the impact of societal factors on the juvenile justice system.
- Evaluate reformative measures and their effectiveness.

Grading Criteria:

- Participation: 20%
- Written Assignments: 30%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 30%

Course Schedule (Please note the course schedule is subject to change):

Week 1: (Jan 13-19) -- NO CLASS THIS WEEK

- **Read: *Burning Down the House*, Part I: Teenage Wasteland**

Week 2-3: (Jan 20-Feb 2)

- **Course Introduction**
- **Overview of Juvenile Delinquency**
- **Assignment 1 Due (Jan 27): Short writing assignment on Part I**

Week 4-5: (Feb 3-16)

- **Continue: *Burning Down the House*, Part II: Burning Down The House**
- **Assignment 2 Due (Feb 16): Short writing assignment on Part II**

Week 6-8: (Feb 17-Mar 8)

- **Discussion: Core concepts from *Delinquency and Juvenile Justice in American Society***
- **Focus on gender, trauma, and socioeconomic impacts on delinquency**

Week 9: (Mar 9-15)

- **Midterm Exam**

Spring Break: (Mar 16-22)

Week 10-12: (Mar 23-Apr 12)

- **Systemic Issues and Policies: School-to-prison pipeline, minority contact**
- **Analysis of juvenile justice reforms and outcomes**

Week 13-14: (Apr 13-26)

- **Alternatives to Confinement: Focus on rehabilitation over incarceration**
- **Student presentations on proposed juvenile justice reforms**

Week 15: (Apr 27-May 3)

- **Review and preparation for final exams**
- **Final Project Presentations**

Finals Week: (May 4-11)

- **Final Exam**

Course Policies:

- **All assignments must be submitted on time, barring extenuating circumstances.**
- **Attendance and active participation are crucial and will be reflected in the final grade.**
- **Academic integrity is expected; violations will result in disciplinary action.**

Additional Resources:

- **Additional readings and resources will be provided throughout the course to enhance understanding of topics discussed.**