COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090 or DRE 098; or satisfactory score on placement test
Corequisites: None

This course covers the juvenile justice system and related juvenile issues. Topics include an overview of the juvenile justice system, treatment and prevention programs, special areas and laws unique to juveniles, and other related topics. Upon completion, students should be able to identify and discuss juvenile court structure and procedures, function and jurisdiction of juvenile agencies, processing and detention of juveniles, and case disposition. Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

a. Define the historical, psychological and sociological theories regarding the causes of juvenile delinquency.
b. Describe the relationship between gang delinquency and violence.
c. Describe the relationship between family functioning and delinquency.
d. Describe the nature of female delinquency in our society.
e. Describe the role of schools in the cause and control of delinquency.
f. Describe the role and practices of the police in the prevention and control of delinquency.
g. Describe juvenile court processes, systems, and practices and issues.
h. Explain juvenile due process rights and other constitutional guarantees that apply to juveniles.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

I. The problem of delinquency
   A. Definition of delinquency
   B. Scope of juvenile delinquency
   C. Trends in delinquent behavior

II. The status offender
   A. History of the treatment of status offenders
   B. Trends in treatment

III. Theories of delinquency causation
   A. Classical theories
   B. Biological theories
   C. Psychological theories
   D. Sociological theories
IV. Gang delinquency
   A. Theories of gang formation
   B. Gang structure
   C. Gang behavior

V. Family influence on delinquent behavior
   A. Disrupted family structure
   B. Parental rejection
   C. Nature and causes of child abuse
   D. Effects of child abuse

VI. Female delinquency
   A. Nature and extent of female delinquency
   B. Causes of female delinquency
   C. Family influence on female delinquents
   D. Treatment of female delinquents

VII. The school system and delinquency
    A. Socialization failure of the system
    B. Academic failure of the system
    C. Delinquency and dropout rate
    D. Vandalism and the delinquent
    E. The school and drug and alcohol abuse

VIII. The juvenile justice process
    A. The offender dilemma
    B. Handling serious delinquent offenders

IX. Diversion programs from the criminal justice system
    A. Nature of diversion programs
    B. Role of police in diversion programs
    C. Success factors in diversion programs
    D. Selection criteria for diversion programs

X. The juvenile court
    A. Origins of juvenile court
    B. The court process
       (1) The juvenile petition
       (2) The nature of the hearing
       (3) Adjudication and disposition of juvenile cases
       (4) Predisposition investigation and reporting
       (5) Treatment programs

XI. Probation
    A. Nature of juvenile probation
    B. Selecting probation candidates
    C. Probation activities
    D. Role of the probation officer
    E. Effectiveness of probation programs
XII. Treatment and prevention
   A. Detention facilities
   B. Treatment programs
   C. Delinquency prevention