

The University of Texas at Tyler
Criminal Justice Program
CRIJ 4307.060- (3.0 Credit Hours)
Juvenile Justice System
Fall 2025
ONLINE

Location: Internet

Class Meeting: Asynchronous online class format, discussions, assignments, and defined due dates and time frames.

Instructor: Paul Thompson, D.M., M.S.C.J.,
B.S.

Email: pthompson@uttyler.edu

Office Hours: By virtual appointment through Zoom, since this is an asynchronous online class.

.

Course Description:

The history, philosophy, and evaluation of the juvenile court, and juvenile practices and procedures; a study of juvenile law and the role of police, correctional, and treatment officers.

Textbook Recommended:

The Juvenile Justice System: Delinquency, Processing, and the Law 9th ed.

Alida V. Merlo, Indiana University of Pennsylvania Peter J. Benekos, Mercyhurst University

ISBN: 10: 0-13-481331-6

ISBN: 13: 978-0-13-481331-8

©2019 • Prentice Hall

Recommended:

[APA](#). (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8

Course Overview:

The purpose of this course is to expose you to the juvenile justice system in the United States. You will become familiar with the historical, philosophical, legal, and interventional structure of the juvenile system. In addition, the course connects criminal investigation of juvenile cases to the real world through innovative pedagogy and encourages students to think critically. The successful conclusion of this course will enable a student to intellectually discuss and argue the laws, practices, and procedures of juvenile jurisprudence.

Internet Access:

This course is online therefore, it is imperative you have reliable internet access. UTT learning management system, Canvas, can only be accessed online. The computer lab is available if you don't have access otherwise – please check the computer lab information for guidance on access this semester. This course requires a regular check of announcements, the completion of assignments, and the posting of grades will be through Canvas.

Course Learning Outcomes: (At the end of the semester, you will be able to :)

1. Summarize the evolution of the juvenile justice system in the United States.
2. Explain how various philosophies impacted the treatment of youths as juveniles.
3. Define the roles and importance of stakeholders as it relates to juvenile justice.
4. Argue how juvenile courts, practices, procedures, and intervention programs address the problem of criminal activities committed by youths.
5. Evaluate the historical and current challenges of juvenile law.
6. Review the challenges of youths and the police in the juvenile justice system.
7. Recommend and defend thoughtful solutions to the juvenile justice system.

Attendance Policy:

This is an online course. This course offering is in an asynchronous mode, however, there may be sessions offered in asynchronous mode for the review of finals. Class participation is encouraged, which takes place with your consistent logging into the class, discussion

participation, completion of assignments, and submittal of required work on or before the due date and time. You must stay current if you want to be successful in the course.

Class Participation:

Your active participation will help enrich your course experience. The reading and thinking of course materials will add value to your class participation.

Missed Exams/Late Assignments:

Submitting late assignments is generally not accepted. However, exceptions may be granted for unforeseen and unavoidable traumatic events: 1. If an event is known and unavoidable, contact me within 24 hours of the event. 2. If an event is unforeseen and does not allow for time for contact, then contact me with acceptable documentation as soon as possible. Stay informed and aware of the course schedule, as minor adjustments may occur.

Student Expectations:

- Attendance.
- The utilization of critical thinking.
- The discussion of ideas and respecting the ideas of other colleagues.
- Read the required text and other relevant information provided throughout this course.
- Prepared to participate in class based on knowledge gained through credible, relevant sources.
- The completion and submittal of all assignments before or at the deadline.
- Access and stay current with Canvas.
- Check your email.
- Ask for help, do not wait till the end of the semester. Send questions to pthompson@uttyler.edu.

How to Contact Me:

Email me: pthompson@uttyler.edu

Canvas inbox is my preferred method of contact.

When sending an email, please write in the subject line CRIJ 4307.060.

Census Date

September 8, 2025 - Deadline for all registrations and schedule changes.

Last Day to Withdraw

November 4, 2025 - Last day to withdraw from one or more courses

Course Evaluation Procedures:

Assessment and exams will be conducted to determine your proficiency in the course's concept. Assessment includes; discussion boards, quizzes, written assignments, and a final comprehensive exam.

Grading Rubric:

A grading rubric will be provided to you in Canvas for your learning activities.

Evaluation:

1. Discussion Board	20%
2. Quizzes	20%
3. Written Assignment (academic research paper)	30 %
4. Final Exam	30%
TOTAL - 100%	

1. Discussions: (20%)

The discussions are weekly learning activities. The expectation is to engage in a scholarly discussion with your classmate and instructor regarding course material. You are expected to post to the discussion board a minimum of **one paragraph** and respond to at **least one** classmate's posting. APA style, 7th ed.

2. Quizzes: (20%)

The quizzes are required to be completed each week. The deadlines are 11:59 p.m. (Central Standard Time) on Sunday of each week of instruction. The quizzes may include the chapter-assigned reading, lecture, and/or review of a specified topic.

3. Written Assignment (Academic Research Paper): (30%)

All written assignments must be submitted in APA style. The academic research paper must be in APA 7th edition style, with a minimum of seven (7) pages (this does not count for the title, abstract, and references pages), with a minimum of two (2) peer-reviewed citations. Contact the writing lab if assistance is needed. The research paper must be uploaded into Canvas in a word document format.

***The assignment:**

Select **one** juvenile intervention program from the following perspectives; Treatment, Delinquency, Rehabilitation, Diversion, Community, or Court. The Academic Research Paper will express your selections'; purpose, philosophy, implementation method, evaluation or analysis, effectiveness, and **your** recommendations to enhance the program.

- Lectures on the week of **September 29, 2025, and October 20, 2025,** will cover in detail expectations for the Academic Research Paper.

Due: SUNDAY, November 9, 2025, 11:59 p.m. – This assignment must also be uploaded to Canvas in a Word Document (DOC or DOCX) and will be checked for plagiarism through Turnitin.

Research Paper Requirement:

Paper Format: All margins are placed at 1 inch.

Numbered pages. Running header (optional).

Font: Times New Roman – Size 12 pts.

Spacing: Double Space.

Title Page: APA Title Page.

Abstract: APA format.

Body: 7 pages.

Reference: APA format (Bibliography)

*Minimum of 2 peer-reviewed citations.

***Length minimum: 7 pages (NOT INCLUDING; TITLE PAGE, ABSTRACT PAGE, AND REFERENCE PAGE(S)).**

4. Final Examination: (30%)

There will be one (1) examination during the semester. The exam will be a comprehensive course exam at the end of the semester.

Final Grading Scale:

A=90% and above

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=<60%

Rounding.

Course Information

[Student Resources](#)

[University Policies and Information](#)

Course Schedule

Juvenile Justice System CRIJ 4307

Week	Date	Topic	Resource	Assignment
1	25-Aug	Introduction	Video Lecture	Introduction/Discussion/Quiz
2	1-Sep	Overview	Video Lecture -Chapter 1	Discussion X2/ Quiz
3	8-Sep	History	Video Lecture/Chapter 2	Discussion/Quiz
4	15-Sep	Theories	Video Lecture/Chapter 3	Discussion/Quiz
5	22-Sep	Legal Rights	Video Lecture/Chapter 4	Discussion/Quiz
6	29-Sep	Academic Research Paper	Video Lecture	Discussion
7	6-Oct	Police Involvement	Video Lecture/ Chapter 5	Discussion/Quiz
8	13-Oct	Intake/Preadjudicatory	Video Lecture/Chapter 6	Discussion/Quiz
9	20-Oct	Academic Research Paper	Video Lecture	Discussion
10	27-Oct	Prosecutorial Decisions	Video Lecture/Chapter 7	Discussion/Quiz
11	3-Nov	Classification	Video Lecture/Chapter 8	Discussion/Quiz

**	9-Nov	Academic Research Paper	****ARP****	APA Due Date
12	10-Nov	Adjudicatory Process	Video Lecture/Chapter 9	Discussion/Quiz
13	17-Nov	Sanctions/Probation	Video Lecture/Chapter 10/11	Discussion/Quiz
14	24-Nov	Thanksgiving Holiday		No Assignments
15	1-Dec	Corrections	Video Lecture/ Chapter 12	Discussion/Quiz
16	8-Dec	Finals/Review- Exam	Video Review	Final Exam

*The syllabus is subject to change at my discretion. If I change the syllabus, an updated version will be provided to you on Canvas.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER POLICIES

UT Tyler Honor Code:

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment

Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three-course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, and approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail, or Credit/No Credit.

- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid
-

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit

<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student Application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150, or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence Due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

1. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
 - copying from another student's test paper;
 - using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
 - failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
 - possession during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of

textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;

- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
 - collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
 - discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
 - divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
 - substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
 - paying or offering money or another valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
 - falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
 - taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
 - misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
2. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
- Plagiarism is simply using someone else’s work and presenting it as your own. You must avoid this at all costs! Your credibility is on the line. Your work product must be your own. If you are borrowing someone else’s facts, ideas, or opinions without providing the individual proper credit you are stealing. In the academic world, this is referred to as plagiarism and the penalty is severe. If the thought is not your own, you must cite your source to give proper credit. If you are borrowing someone else’s words, you must enclose them in quotations as well as citing the source. Plagiarism also includes you borrowing, buying, or stealing someone else’s work product and presenting it as your own. DO NOT commit intellectual theft because you will compromise your academic future.
1. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

2. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

[UT Tyler Writing Center \(903.565.5995\)](tel:903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu · [UT Tyler Tutoring Center \(903.565.5964\)](tel:903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu

The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, is the open-access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.

[UT Tyler Counseling Center \(903.566.7254\)](tel:903.566.7254)

Additional Syllabus Information

Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories

COVID Guidance

Information for Classrooms and Laboratories: Students are expected to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its [Honor Code\(Links to an external site.\)](#) and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature should stay at home and notify their faculty. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Recording of Class Sessions

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.