AJ 53 Course Outline as of Fall 2025

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: AJ 53 Title: JUVENILE PROCEDURES
Full Title: Juvenile Procedures
Last Reviewed: 4/26/2021

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00 Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category:	AA Degree Applicable
Grading:	Grade Only
Repeatability:	00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP
Also Listed As:	
Formerly:	

Catalog Description:
This course is an examination of the origin, development, and organization of the juvenile justice system as it evolved in the American justice system. The course explores the theories that focus on juvenile law, courts and processes, and the constitutional protections extended to juveniles administered in the American justice system.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL C1000 OR EMLS 10 (formerly ESL 10) or equivalent or ESL 715

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: This course is an examination of the origin, development, and organization of the juvenile justice system as it evolved in the American justice system. The course explores the theories that focus on juvenile law, courts and processes, and the constitutional protections extended to juveniles administered in the American justice system. (Grade Only)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL C1000 OR EMLS 10 (formerly ESL 10) or equivalent or ESL 715
Limits on Enrollment:
Transfer Credit: CSU;
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	**Area**	Effective:	Inactive:
CSU GE:	**Transfer Area**	Effective:	Inactive:
IGETC:	**Transfer Area**	Effective:	Inactive:

CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:	
UC Transfer:		Effective:		Inactive:	

CID:
CID Descriptor: AJ 220 Juvenile Procedures
SRJC Equivalent Course(s): AJ53

Certificate/Major Applicable:
Both Certificate and Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Apply the California Welfare and Institutions Code to juvenile matters involving delinquency status and dependency.
2. Critically analyze the distinctions between the adult and juvenile justice systems.
3. Critically evaluate constitutional protections extended to juveniles through judicial decisions.
4. Critically appraise juvenile court dispositions.

Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Describe the history of the juvenile justice system.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the procedures in the juvenile justice system from initial contact to corrections.
3. Identify the laws and procedures pertaining to delinquency, status, and dependency.
4. Compare and contrast various types of correctional institutions and programs in the juvenile justice system.
5. Identify promising diversion and prevention programs.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the waiver of a juvenile from the juvenile justice system to the adult criminal justice system.
7. Describe psychological, social, and familial forces in a juvenile's life.

Topics and Scope:

I. History of the Juvenile Justice System
   A. Early and Modern History

B. National History
C. California History

II. Juvenile Crime
A. Measuring Juvenile Crime
B. Patterns and Trends
C. California Juvenile Crime

III. Juvenile Laws
A. Status Offense
B. Delinquency
C. Dependency
D. California Penal Code

IV. Theories of Delinquency
A. Biological
B. Psychological
C. Sociological

V. Juveniles and the Police
A. Contacts and Arrests
B. Schools and Police

VI. Juvenile Court
A. Juvenile Court Personnel
B. Pretrial Stage
C. Transfer to Adult Court (Waiver)
D. Adjudication
E. Dispositions

VII. Prevention and Diversion Programs
A. Building Community Relationships
B. Intervention and Prevention
C. Working with Community Organizations
D. Teen Court

VIII. Juvenile Corrections
A. Detention Facilities
B. Group Homes
C. State Facilities
D. Probation

IX. Dependency
A. Neglect and Maltreatment
B. Child Abuse

X. Specialized Youth Populations
A. Gender
B. Juveniles with Dis/abilities
C. LGBTQ+
D. Child Victims

Assignment:

1. Essay(s) evaluating a procedure, component, or contemporary issue in the juvenile justice system (1-4)
2. One research project
3. Small group discussion and activities
4. Weekly chapter assignments
5. Oral presentation(s) (0-3)
6. Quizzes, midterm, and final exam

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Essay(s), chapter assignments, and research project	Writing 30 - 50%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None	Problem solving 0 - 0%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None	Skill Demonstrations 0 - 0%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Quizzes, midterm, and final exam	Exams 40 - 60%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Oral presentations, research project, and small group activities	Other Category 5 - 10%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:
Instructor-prepared materials
The Juvenile Justice System: Delinquency, Processing and the Law (9th). Merlo, Alida V. and Benekos, Peter J. Pearson. 2019.
Juvenile Justice: A Guide to Theory, Policy and Practice (9th). Cox, Steven M. and Allen, Jennifer M. and Hanser, Robert D. Sage. 2017.