

# Juvenile Justice

## CJS-215



The juvenile justice system is a system of contradictions. Juveniles are accorded special status in the American legal system, and in most countries, but they are also responsible for a substantial amount of criminal activity. Preventing such behavior and responding to its occurrence are matters of concern to society, however involvement in the system may harm the future development of minors who commit delinquent acts. Many people are sympathetic to young people who make mistakes, but we have recently experienced several decades of "get tough" rhetoric, politics, and policy.

This course examines the philosophy and practices of the juvenile justice system with an emphasis on contemporary problems. We begin by providing a background for understanding why we have a separate system, and proceed to discuss the various phases in the system and their similarities to and differences from the adult criminal justice system. With these basic understandings, we will then discuss contemporary topics such as waiver to adult court, collateral consequences of system involvement, and the school-to-prison pipeline.

Prerequisites: CJS 101. Major/minor only or consent of department advisor.

