Juveniles are accorded special status under the American legal system. Children and adolescents also account for a substantial amount of crime (delinquency). Preventing such behavior and responding to its occurrence are matters of concern to society as well as the families and victims affected. This course examines the historical precedents and philosophical reasons for treating juveniles differently from adults. Methods of instruction include assigned readings, class discussion of readings, lecture, individual writing, class presentation, tour of the McLean County Juvenile Detention Facility, guest speakers, and exams.

As a result of taking this course, you will:

1. Gain factual knowledge (terminology, methods, trends) related to the main components of the juvenile court process.
2. Understand the differences between the adult criminal justice system and the juvenile justice system.
3. Understand the ways in which status offenders, juvenile delinquents, and child abuse victims are handled differently by the juvenile justice system.
4. Understand the interaction between society’s changing and often conflicting views of how juvenile delinquents should be handled.
5. Understand issues related to gender and the juvenile justice system.
6. Understand the barriers faced by juveniles as they attempt to “pay back” to society in the context of risk factors operating at multiple levels in their lives.

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