**The Juvenile Justice System**

**JUST 3200**

**Spring 2015**

**East Carolina University, College of Human Ecology, Department of Criminal Justice**

**Research Paper Instructions**

The juvenile justice system has many controversial and hotly debated issues, for this assignment you will be tasked with critically evaluating one of these issues. Below is a list of just a few of these issues. You may select one of these issues or an issue of your choosing provided it pertains to the juvenile justice system (and you discuss the topic with me).

The issues:

* + Does religion reduce delinquency?
  + Does work reduce delinquency?
  + Does violence in mass media (TV, movie, music, video games) cause violence among juveniles?
  + Do drugs increase the likelihood of delinquency?
  + Do guns increase the likelihood of delinquency?
  + Should serious juvenile offenders be tried in criminal court?
  + Should we incarcerate juvenile offenders?
  + Do awareness programs such as D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. reduce delinquency?
  + Should the juvenile justice system emphasize tougher punishments, rehabilitation and prevention, or a combination of the two?
  + What rehabilitation and prevention programs are the most effective in reducing delinquency?

Generally, you research paper will follow the following structure:

Introduction-

Introduce the issue

Arguments-

In this section you will present the arguments on both sides (provided there are opposing sides) of the issue. You should try to draw these arguments out of your research on the issue, but you may also draw from more popular sources (i.e. news outlets).

Empirical Research-

In this section you will discuss the research and findings of at least 8 scholarly sources relevant to your issue.

Conclusion-

In this section briefly summarize the main arguments of both sides, then discuss the findings of the empirical research (be sure to note when arguments were proven or disproven by the research). Next, pick a side of the argument and discuss your reasons for doing so (make logical and well-reasoned arguments). Finally, conclude with your assessment on the future of the issue (where do you see the debate going, is there a resolution or new policy needed).

References-

Formatted to APA style guidelines.

**Research Paper Schedule and Guidelines**

*Preliminary Assignment: Discuss Topic with Professor* ***Due: 1/21/2015***

* This assignment is all about ironing out any questions or concerns that you may have about the research paper, and its process. All that you have to do to complete this assignment is stop by office hours and discuss your topic with me for about 5 minutes (it can be longer depending upon questions that you may have). If you cannot make it to office hours you will need to schedule a time with me that works for both of our schedules.
* This assignment will factor into your participation grade.

*Assignment 1: Introduction to Issue* ***Due: 1/26/2015***

* In this assignment you will be tasked with writing a 2-3 page introduction to the topic you have selected. The introduction should present a summary of the issue, providing details such as the arguments for and against. At the end of your introduction be sure to present your thoughts on the issue in a logical and well-thought out manner.
* This assignment will be worth 3% of your final grade.

*Assignment 2: Review of 4 Sources* ***Due: 3/2/2015***

* In this assignment you will be tasked with reviewing **four** **empirical research sources** on your topic of study. For each source, you should write 1-2 pages. These sources should be found using google scholar or proquest. Sources that will count toward these 4 sources should come from peer-reviewed journals.
* This assignment will be worth 5% of your final grade.

*Assignment 3: Review of 4 Sources* ***Due: 4/1/2015***

* In this assignment you will be tasked with reviewing **four** **additional** **empirical research sources** on your topic of study. For each source, you should write 1-2 pages. These sources should be found using google scholar or proquest. Sources that will count toward these 4 sources should come from peer-reviewed journals.
* This assignment will be worth 5% of your final grade.

*Assignment 4: Final Research Paper* ***Due: 4/22/2015***

* In the final written assignment you will construct a complete research paper from previous drafts of components and by writing a conclusion section. The conclusion should: summarize the issue and main arguments made in the introduction section (1-2 pages), summarize the findings from the empirical research (1-2 pages), your conclusions on the issue (1-2 pages), and discuss the future of the issue/potential policy implications of the issue (1-2 pages). In total your research paper should be at least 16 pages long (not including the cover page and references).
* This assignment will be worth 15% of your final grade.