

Dr. Stacie Ordonez

Office hours: By appointment

Contact Information: saordonez@utep.edu

Required Textbook:

Vandiver, D., Braithwaite, J., & Stafford, M. (2017). *Sex Crimes and Sex Offenders: Research & Realities*. Taylor & Francis. ISBN: 9781138937093

Supplemental readings can be found in Blackboard

Course Description: CRIJ 4300-Special Topics: Sex Offenses is an upper division elective course in Criminal Justice, focusing on sex crimes, sex offenders, the criminal justice system, and policy. We will examine myths through a critical research and reality-based lens. The purpose of this course is to provide students with information that will benefit them when working with/studying such offenders. The course begins with an overview of the types of sex crimes that occur, along with their prevalence. Both criminological theories and theories specific to sex offending are identified. An emphasis is placed on typologies, which emphasize the diversity that exists among sex offenders. Students will have the opportunity to explore problems with current trends and to discuss related issues. Emphasis is placed on disputing commonly held myths regarding this population of offenders.

Learning Goals and Objectives:

1. To be familiar with the factual information (fundamental principles) associated with sex offenders and sex offender research. Each student should be familiar with the following:
 - ❑ Number of and trends about sex offenders
 - ❑ History/background of sex offender research
 - ❑ Theories related to sex crimes (biological, cognitive, psychosocial, etc.)
 - ❑ Types of sex crimes (rape, child sexual abuse, and child pornography)
 - ❑ Special populations of sex offenders (juvenile sex offenders, female sex offenders, and those who sexually abuse in the context of an institution)
2. To gain information about work with sex offenders. This includes the following:
 - ❑ Investigation approaches
 - ❑ Assessment and treatment approaches
 - ❑ Registration laws and government reaction

These objectives are achieved through various activities, including attending class, taking notes, reading assigned material, participating in class discussions, completing assignments, and preparing for exams.

Format of Class:

This is an online course. Students are expected to participate in all discussion boards, as this is how you demonstrate to me that you can apply the concepts covered in the lecture presentations. There are 3 exams in this class, which will cover the lecture material and assigned readings. It is important to log in several times throughout the week to keep up with discussions, any class updates. Complete all assignments on time, and most importantly, ask questions/clarification about anything that is unclear.

GRADING SCALE:

Each student's grade will be based on the following:

Class Discussions		100 Points
Exams	(50 pts X 2)	100 points
Written Assignments		200 Points

400 points possible

NOTE: Grades are assigned according to the total points earned. I do not curve grades or round up. If you end the class with an 89.8, you will receive a B. You are responsible for obtaining the grade you want in this class.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

DETAILS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Written Assignment

In weeks 3, 5 and 7, you will have a writing assignment due. The assignment will require you use to analyze and apply concepts we have covered in this class. In these assignments, I expect to see that you can apply material. **Refer to Blackboard for more information regarding your writing assignments.**

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Due dates are posted in Blackboard. Plan accordingly. I do not accept late assignments. No exceptions.

II. Discussion boards

There are 7 discussion boards in this class. Your participation is required in all of them. Original posts are due by TUESDAY and must be 200 words in length. You must use at least 2 academic resources to support your opinion, unless otherwise stated in the discussion board. You must respond to 2 of your peers by Friday, plus any of your peers that ask you questions by Sunday. **If you fail to respond to me if I ask you a question, you will receive only half of the credit possible plus any points taken from the grading rubric.**

III. EXAMS: You will have 2 exams in this class. Each exam is worth 50 points each (**SEE schedule for exam dates**). The exams will likely be structured with some combination of multiple choice, True/False, and/or Essay questions. **Missed Exams CANNOT be made up.**

IV. Instructor's Policies

Sensitive Topic Discussion:

Students should expect to be exposed to sexual abuse information and details that may be uncomfortable or even traumatic to some. Please consider not taking this course if you believe you will be negatively affected by such information.

Disability:

Students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange a meeting with the instructor so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that

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participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Students with disabilities are required to notify the Center for Accommodations and Support Services for accommodations, cass@utep.edu; 915-747-5148; Union East Rm 106.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to be familiar with all University policies regarding academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on an exam, turning in someone else's assignment from a previous class, or plagiarism: "(1) use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without fully and properly crediting the author with citations or biographical reference; (2) unacknowledged use of work/materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials; (3) unacknowledged use of original work/material that has been produced through collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators."

I take cases of alleged academic dishonesty seriously. Academic dishonesty from a student in Criminal Justice undermines the entire purpose of your degree and will not be tolerated. For students who are found to have allegedly engaged in any form of academic dishonesty, the case will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). While the case is being investigated by OSCCR, an "I" (Incomplete) will be assigned until the case is resolved. If the student is found by OSCCR to have engaged in misconduct, sanctions may include a failing grade on the assignment or exam in question, a failing grade in the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University. See <http://www.utep.edu/dos>

UTEP Drop Policy

If unforeseen circumstances happen where a drop is necessary, *students* are responsible for initiating any course drop. It is the student's responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect financial aid. **Students are limited to dropping no more than 6 courses over their entire academic career of all courses taken at any public college or University in Texas.** If a student withdraws completely from all classes, kindly notify Dr. Ordonez at saordonez@utep.edu.

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COURSE SCHEDULE

I reserve the right to add assignments and amend this schedule to suit the needs of the class

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic Coverage</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Week 1	Introduction to Course Defining Sex Crimes Prevalence & Recidivism of Sexual Offending Theory	Read Ch 1 Read Ch 1 Read Ch 2
Week 2	Sex Behaviors Nuisance Sexual Behaviors	Lecture slides Lecture Slides
Week 3	Rape Groth's Typology of Rapists Sexually Motivated Non-Sexually Motivated	Read Ch 3
	Written Assignment Due	
Week 4	Child Sexual Abuse Pedophile vs Hebephile "Abducted in Plain Sight" Child Pornography Exposure to Pornography	Read Ch 4 Read Ch 5
	EXAM 1 covers Chapters 1- 5 Due by Friday at 5pm	
Week 5	Juvenile Sex Offenders Female Sex Offenders	Read Ch 6 Read Ch 7
	Written Assignment Due	
Week 6	Institutional Sexual Abuse Institutional Myths Investigations of Sex Crimes and Sex Offenders Risk Assessments & Treatment Registration Laws	Read Ch 8 Read Ch 9 Read Ch 10 Read Ch 11
Week 7	Human Sex Trafficking Documentary	Lecture slides
	Written Assignment Due	

EXAM 2 covers Chapters 6-11 due by 5pm on 12/6