

CRIJ 4300-Special Topics: Sex Crimes Spring 2024 (CRN:26584)

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Department of Criminal Justice
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Class Dates: January 16th – May 2nd, 2024
Tuesday/Thursday 12 pm -1:20pm
Liberal Arts 204

Office Hours: Office Hours are available by appointment. I am available to meet with students before and after class or by appointment. I can be reached through UTEP email. Please allow 24 hours to respond on weekdays and 72 hours over the weekend.

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. 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/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.
3. 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.

Required Text



Vandiver, D., Braithwaite, J., & Stafford, M. (2017). *Sex Crimes and Sex Offenders: Research & Realities*. Taylor & Francis. ISBN: 9781138937109

Supplemental readings can be found in Blackboard

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In Class Activities		100 Points
4 Exams	50 points each	200 points
3 Written Assignments	50 points each	150 Points
		450 points possible

Points	Percentage	Letter Grade
405-450	90-100	A
360-404	80-89	B
315-359	70-79	C
270-314	60-69	D
0-269	0-59	F

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%, you will receive a B. You are responsible for obtaining the grade you want in this class.

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DETAILS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. In Class Activities- This is a face-to-face class. Attendance is expected. Activities will be completed in class that are not scheduled but attendance is required to obtain the points. This also includes any assignment given in the first or last few minutes of class. If you are late or leave early, you will not get the points. If you are absent, regardless of the reason, you can't make up missed class activities. (Exceptions include immediate family death, medical emergency, or university sponsored activities).

II. Written Assignments-In weeks 5, 9 and 13, you will have a writing assignment due. The assignment will require you to analyze and apply concepts we have covered in this class. In these assignments, I expect to see that you can define, describe, and apply material. Assignments must be submitted in Blackboard as a PDF, JPG, or Word doc (docx.). Assignments submitted as a comment, submission text or .pages, will not be accepted and will receive a zero. If I am not able to open your attachment you will receive a zero. See Blackboard for more details.

III. EXAMS: You have 4 exams in this class. Each exam is worth 50 points each (SEE schedule for exam dates). The exact format of exams is to be determined. However, 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

Late Work: Late assignments/discussions/exams will not be accepted. Due dates are posted. Plan accordingly. You can submit all assignments early.

Absences and Late comers: Class begins promptly at the start time, please be on time. If you miss class, **you will not** be able to make up any activities completed in class. It is your responsibility to reach out to a classmate for missed notes.

Use of cell phones is strictly prohibited during class. Should your phone ring during class, you will be asked to leave. Should you take phone call or be observed texting, you will be asked to leave class. Cell phones should be appropriately stored away during exams. If a student is found to have their phone out while taking an exam, they will fail that exam and be asked to leave. **Taking pictures in class is Prohibited.** You are not allowed to take pictures of Lecture slides or materials. Plan on bringing a notebook and writing utensil to take notes in this class.

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 participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Students with disabilities are required to notify the Center for Accommodations and Support Services for accommodations.

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal. For more information, please visit: <https://www.utep.edu/titleix/pregnancy-and-parenting.html>

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Spring 2024 (CRN:26584)

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.**

CONTRACT

By reading this syllabus and remaining enrolled in the class, you are agreeing to the terms of the contract. If you have any questions, please email Dr. Ordonez (saordonez@utep.edu).

RECORDING OF CLASS & COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

The materials used in this course are copyrighted. This includes, but is not limited to, syllabi, exams, in class activities, review sheets, homework, solutions, class notes, supplemental materials. You do not have the right to copy or distribute these items unless I specifically grant you permission.

Civility Statement: My promise to my students is to always provide a learning environment appropriate for academic knowledge, discussion, and debate. For this to occur, each learner will respect what others say and avoid insults, interruptions, and disrespect. We will avoid becoming politically charged when discussing sensitive topics.

We all come to the table with a variety of experiences and viewpoints, which means that we have so much to learn from each other! To get the most out of this opportunity, it is important that we do not shy away from differences. Rather, we should show respect for differences by seeking to understand, asking questions, clarifying our understanding, and/or respectfully explaining our own perspective. This way, everybody comes away with new perspectives on the issue and respecting others with different values or beliefs. If someone says something that bothers you for any reason, assume that your peer did not mean to be offensive and ask your peer to clarify what he or she meant. Then explain the impact it had on you. If your classmates tell you that something you said or wrote bothered them, assume that they are not attacking you, but that they are sharing something that might be important for you to know.

And a final note: Any discussion that becomes violent (emotional, mental, physical), students will be asked to leave the classroom and the behavior will be reported as a violent incident to the University to review. Your presence in the classroom will not be allowed until the university reviews the incident and considers you safe to return to the classroom.

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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>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Introduction to Course Defining Sex Crimes	
Week 2	Prevalence & Recidivism of Sexual Offending Sexual Behaviors & Theory	Read Chapter 1 & 2
Week 3	Rape	Read Ch 3
Week 4	Exam 1 covers Ch 1-3 and lectures. Exam will open 2/5/2024 at 12am and is due Sunday in BB by 11:55pm on 2/11/2024.	
Week 5	Child Sexual Abuse, Pedophile vs Hebephile Abducted in Plain Sight Written Assignment Due 2/18/2024	Read Ch 4
Week 6	Child Pornography Exposure to Pornography	Read Chapter 5
Week 7	Special Populations	Read Ch 6 & 7
Week 8	Exam 2 covers Ch 4-7 and lectures. Exam will open 3/4/2024 at 12am and is due Sunday in BB by 11:55pm on 3/10/2024.	
Spring Break 3/11-3/17. Be Safe!		
Week 9	Human Sex Trafficking	Lecture slides
Week 10	Registration Laws Written Assignment Due 3/31/2024	Read Ch 11
Week 11	Institutional Sexual Abuse Institutional Myths	Read Ch 8
Week 12	Exam 3 covers Ch 11, 8, and lectures. Exam will open 4/8/2024 at 12 a.m and is due Sunday in BB by 11:55pm on 4/14/2024.	
Week 13	Investigations of Sex Crimes & Sex Offenders Written Assignment Due 4/24/2024	Read Ch 9
Week 14	Risk Assessments & Treatment	Read Ch 10
Week 15	Sex Offenses Review	Read Ch 12

**Final Exam will open on 5/2/2024 at 12pm (noon) and is due in BB by 5/7/2024 by 12pm (noon).
Exam covers Ch 9-12 and lectures**