

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
Criminal Justice Division

CrJ 150-02
Sex Offenses and Offenders
M 7:00- 9:50
Off. Hrs. MW 0415-0530

Professor Lowe
Spring 2009
Office ALP 219
Phone 7059
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Syllabus

Course Description:

Exploration of relevant factors and dimensions of sexual offenses and offenders related to the Criminal Justice system, its clientele and practitioners.

Required Texts:

Freeman-Longo, Robert E. Sexual Abuse In America: Epidemic. The Safer Society Press, 1998

Holmes, Ronald M. Sex Crimes. 3rd Ed. Sage Publications, 2009.

Optional Text:

Holmes, Ronald M. Current Perspectives on Sex Crimes Sage Publications, 2002 (Optional)

Course Objectives:

CrJ 150 emphasis is on sexual deviance, rape, child molest and other sexual behavior that may or may not be criminal in nature. Sex offenses will be explored by examining the personalities of the individuals who commit these offenses, the social, clinical and legal aspects of sexual offending and the effects on victims and society. At the conclusion of the semester students will be expected to be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the manner in which sex offenses and offenders are handled by various social institutions such as the criminal justice system, the legislature, mental health, education and religion.
- Discuss the social functions of criminal sanctions and appraise crime control policies regarding sexual assault.
- Describe societal response to sexual behavior from a historical perspective.
- Discuss the social functions of criminal sanctions and appraise crime control policies as they relate to sexual offending.
- Analyze, dissect and explain various issues regarding sex and sexuality as they relate to sexual abuse.
- Identify and describe the social and legal significance of sex offending behavior and its effects on victims of sexual abuse.
- Contrast the differences in sexual abusers using current adult male and female typologies and differentiate between the common paraphilias (deviant sexual interests).
- Identify the specific impacts of these crimes on the victims.
- Debate the pros and cons of current sex offender legislation and create counter arguments.
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of current sex offender statutes and propose and support alternatives.
- Demonstrate understanding of the influence of diverse moral, cultural and religious values on perception, interpretation and criminalization of sexual behavior.

Extra Readings, Films and Speakers:

Throughout the course, you will receive handouts to read in addition to your text material. I will schedule films, and/or guest speakers to augment class lectures. You are responsible for all material presented in class and all class assignments.

Assignments:

Homework assignments will be given which commonly will require a critical thinking exercise analyzing current sex related legislation, sex offender cases or legal debate. Cumulative scores from homework assignments are worth 25 points or 1/4 of your grade.

Attendance: Class attendance will occasionally be taken. You will be responsible for all class material. Students not attending class will find it difficult to participate and to take notes, and thus unlikely to do well on the exams.

Exams:

Two exams will be given. Each exam commonly consists of true/false, multiple choice and essay questions. Each exam is worth 25 points or 1/4 of your grade. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. MISSING AN EXAM RESULTS IN 0 POINTS; AND WILL SERIOUSLY, ADVERSLEY AFFECT YOUR GRADE.

Research Report:

You will responsible for the completion of a research paper on an approved sexual abuse topic. This report is worth 25points, or 1/4 of your final grade. (See Research Assignment Sheet). Due April 27. Late papers will accepted only under unusual circumstances and will be down graded accordingly.

Plagiarized work or other academic dishonesty will result in failure in class. I expect you to defend and explain your work. If I encounter a suspect essay, I will give you an opportunity to explain and defend it. If you cannot, the presumption will be that the work is not original. The University website at (http://www.csus.edu/admbus/umannual.UMP_14150.htm) contains the university policy on plagiarism and definitions of plagiarism. Also consult the university library website (<http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=175>)

Support with Writing Assignments

The College of Health and Human Services Writing Center, located in Solano Hall 5000, is a program designed to assist students with all stages of writing from pre-writing through editing a text utilizing a peer-tutoring environment. The Center is staffed by graduate students from the English Department. Hours will be posted at the beginning of the semester. If you have questions about the Center, please call (916) 278-7255.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: *"If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester."*

Extra Credit:

Students are asked throughout the semester to collect newspaper articles relating to sex offenses and offenders. The articles are to be submitted in a 1" binder and turned in May 11. It will be worth up to 10 extra credit points.

Grades:

Each exam and the research report will be given a numerical score. The homework assignments will be totaled and given a numerical score. Points will be totaled for your final letter grade.

Reasonable *class participation* is a subjective judgment on the part of the instructor. If a student is considered not to be reasonably participating, that student will be notified by the instructor. *Attendance and participation* in class are occasionally taken into consideration if a student is between grades at semester's end. For example, a student who has a B+ and is only one (1) percentage point from an A- grade and who has had excellent attendance and classroom participation would receive an A- grade in the course.

Grading Scale:

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	<60	F

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RESEARCH REPORT ASSIGNMENT
Due Date April 27

Choose one research topic from the list below. (If you wish to research a topic not on the list, you must receive permission from the instructor prior to proceeding.)

Your report will be 6-10 pages in length, typewritten and double-spaced. It must be adequately referenced. You must use a minimum of three references, other than an encyclopedia or dictionary, of which at least one is a book and at least two are journals. Internet sources may be used only if official and/or published elsewhere. Reference the original publication information as your citation, not the Internet.

Your report will include the following sections to cover your topic thoroughly:

- Introduction/Statement of the problem
- History (California and elsewhere e.g., national, if relevant)
- Prevalence and incidence statistics
- Current status
- Theoretical discussion
- Future trends
- Conclusion

Bibliography

ALL OF THE MATERIAL YOU INCLUDE MUST BE RESEARCH-BASED OR SCIENTIFICALLY THEORETICAL.

Choose one of the following topics:

TOPICS

- Sex Offender Treatment: What is its effect? How successful is it?
- Megan's Law: What is its effect? Community protection or a false sense of security?
- The Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Law: What is its effect? Is this the only alternative?
- Prostitution: Should it be legalized? What is the nature of the problem?
- Child Sexual Abuse what is its relationship to delinquency & adult criminology
- The Chemical Castration Law: What is its effect? Is it a deterrent?
- Pornography: How extensive is it? How damaging is it? Should it be protected under the First Amendment?
- Jessica' Law: What potential effects does it have on the community, the criminal justice system, and the sex offender? Is it an effective tool in deterring sexual abuse?

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COURSE OUTLINE*

- I. Definition of Sexual Abuse (Epidemic pages 9-37)
(Sex Crimes pages 1-10)
(Current Perspectives Chapter 1)

Misconceptions and Facts About Sex Offenses and Offenders (Handout Material)
Statement of the Problem: The Numbers and The Victims (Handout Material)
 - II. Standards of Sexual Behavior (Epidemic pages 37-39)
(Sex Crimes pages 13-18)
 - III. History and Theories of Sexual Offense (Sex Crimes Chapters 2&3)
(Epidemic pages 55-65)
 - IV. Sex form Sale (Epidemic Chapter 6)
(Current Perspectives Chapters 4,5,&7)
 - V. Pornography: Types and Uses (Epidemic Chapter 6)
(Sex Crimes Chapters 7&8)
 - VI. Sexual Deviancy and the Paraphilias (Sex Crimes Chapters 4 & 10)
(Current Perspectives Chapter 6)
- EXAM 1 (approximate)**
- VII. Traumagenic Impact of Child Sexual Abuse (Epidemic Chapter 9)
 - VIII. Typology of the Adult Child Molester (Sex Crimes Chapter 5&6)
(Epidemic 40-44, 71-74)
 - IX. Impact of Rape on the Victim (Sex Crimes Chapter 12, pages 217-227, and Chapter 13)
(Current Perspectives Chapters 20&21)
 - X. Typology of Adult Rapists (Sex Crimes Chapter 12, pages 228-245)
(Epidemic pages 47-50)
(Current Perspectives Chapter 19)
 - XI. Typology of Female Sex Offenders (Handout Material)

Course Outline cont.

- XII Sex Offender Treatment (Sex Crimes Chapter 14)
(Epidemic Chapter 10)
(Current Perspectives Chapter 17)
- XIII The Sex Offender Politics and the Law (Epidemic Chapters 7&8)
(Current Perspectives Chapter 24)
- XIV Prevention for the 21st Century (Epidemic Chapter 11)
(Current Perspectives Chapter 23)

EXAM 2 Week of May 16

*Additional reading material and home work assignments will be distributed throughout the course. You are responsible for knowing the content of these materials and assignments as well as that from the course texts.