

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
CJ 7350L: SEX OFFENDER RESEARCH & POLICY  
CJ 5380J: SEX OFFENDERS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

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Fall 2019 ~ Location: Hines 103

Tuesday: 3:30 p.m. – 6:20 p.m.

**Dr. Donna Vandiver**

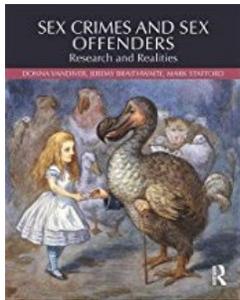
Office: Agriculture, 309

Hours: Tuesday 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. and by appointment

E-mail: vandiver@txstate.edu

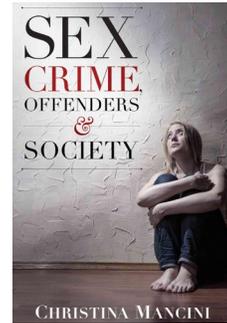
Phone: (512) 245-3449

This is a stacked course, meaning it is being taught at the master's and doctoral level. Please note, the doctoral students have additional readings that are not required for the master's-level students. Doctoral students also have different requirements for the research papers listed below.



**Required Books:**

Vandiver, D., Braithwaite, J., & Stafford, M. (2017). *Sex Crimes and Sex Offenders: Research & Realities*. Routledge. ISBN: 9781138937093. (Amazon = \$72.38; rental price = \$36.48)



**Additional book for doctoral students:**

Mancini, C. (2014). *Sex Crime, Offenders & Society*. Carolina Academic Press. ISBN: 978-1-61163-375-7 (Amazon = \$35.99; used = \$29.46)

**Required Articles:**

Additional information is provided either as a handout, a link to a particular website, or PDF/DOC file on TRACS.

**Optional Book:**

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, Sixth Edition.

**Website Support: TRACS**

Each student is required to access TRACS for lecture notes, assignments, and grades. From txstate.edu, click on TRACS (top right hand of screen). If you need assistance, please contact the helpdesk at (512) 245-4357.

**Suggested App: Cram.com**

Each student can access electronic flashcards via this app. More information can be found at [www.cram.com](http://www.cram.com) (Search these terms: Sex Crimes, Chapter 1 . . . ).

**Course Description:** CJ 5380/CJ 7350C is a graduate-level course focusing on sex crimes, sex offenders, the criminal justice system, and policy. This course focuses on a broad range of aspects related to sex crimes and sex offenders. Given the recent increased media coverage regarding sex offenders, many myths regarding this group of offenders have been amplified. Here, we will examine these myths through a critical research and reality-based lens. It is highly likely that criminal justice practitioners and academics will work with and/or study sex offenders and/or victims in some capacity.

The purpose of this course is to provide students with information that will benefit them when working with/studying such offenders and/or victims. This course, therefore, will provide an overview of the myths associated with sex crimes and sex offenders. An overview of the types of sex crimes that occur, along with their prevalence, will be examined. Both criminological theories and theories specific to sex offending are identified. Three broad types of sex crimes are assessed: rape/sexual assault, child sexual abuse, and child pornography. An emphasis is placed on typologies, which emphasize the heterogeneity that exists among sex offenders. Attention is also given to special populations of sex offenders: juvenile sex offenders, female sex offenders, and those who sexually abuse in the context of an institution (school, church, daycare, etc.). Additionally, recent trends in investigation strategies, assessment tools, treatment approaches, and legal responses are reviewed and discussed. Emphasis is placed on disputing commonly held myths regarding this population of offenders.

**Learning Goals and Objectives:**

For each of the following topics, students should be able to recall the associated terminology, define those terms, explain concepts, apply them to novel situations, be able to make connections among the concepts via methods of comparing/contrasting, explain pros and cons of associated policies and various perspectives regarding responses to sex offenders/sex crimes, and critically evaluate them based on empirical evidence, differentiating between common sense approaches and evidence-based approaches. The topics broadly include:

- ❑ Number of and trends about sex offenders
- ❑ History/background of sex/sex crimes/sex offender research
- ❑ Theories (criminological theories applied to sex offenders/crimes and those developed to specifically explain sex offenders/sex crimes)
- ❑ 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)
- ❑ Investigation approaches
- ❑ Assessment and treatment approaches
- ❑ Registration laws and government reactions

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:**

PowerPoints of class notes are made available to students on TRACS. This course is a seminar-lecture style class, meaning there are some lectures and some discussions. Two exams are given during the semester, which will cover the lecture material and assigned readings. It is important to attend each class meeting, keep up with the readings, complete all assignments on time, and most importantly, ask questions/clarification about anything that is unclear. You may stop by my office or email if you have questions.

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**GRADE**

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

- Two exams (100 x 2 = 200 points)
- 2 Research papers (100 x 2 = 200 points)
- 1 Presentation of a book related to course topic (50 points)
- Attendance (Points will be lost for excessive absences)
- Additional short assignments/activities (TBA)

**Two Exams (200 points):**

Each exam is worth 100 points. It will include a combination of the following sections: (1) define/explain concepts, worth 20 points; (2) short essays, worth 60 points, and a (3) long(-er) essays (20 points). They are take-home exams (open-notes/resources). Do not under any circumstances confer with your classmates and/or other students regarding the exam. The essays should be well organized and written in proper grammar. The terms I, me, we, you, etc., should be avoided. The answers should include information from lecture and also assigned reading material (rather than providing a common-sense explanation). The second exam will focus primarily on the material covered during the second half, but can include material from the first part of the exam.

**Two Research Papers (200 points):**

Each student will choose two topics related to class discussion and/or readings and write two research papers on their chosen topics. Each paper is worth 100 points. paper should be a minimum of 10 pages and maximum of 13 pages. A minimum of 15 peer-reviewed articles is required. (Doctoral students are required to rely on a minimum of 25 sources). Other sources can be used, but do not count towards the 15 peer-reviewed articles. The paper must have a title and include a minimum of seven main words. The paper should examine a research question developed by the student (e.g., What is the relationship between viewing child pornography and committing child abuse?; how can typologies be used during investigations of sex crimes?; what has been university/college response to rape allegations?; and how are current sex-offender policies related/not related to research findings?).

The papers should be well organized. Use of headings and subheadings throughout the paper is encouraged, but not required. Each paper should have an introduction (statement of problem) with a thesis statement (clearly and specifically outlining the purpose of the paper), body, and conclusion. The handout, "writing guidelines," along with the APA citation format, should be followed (available on TRACS).

Students may NOT use any part of this paper for another class at Texas State University without receiving permission from myself and the instructor for the other course. Students are not allowed to submit any part of a part written for another class for the papers in this course. This constitutes an honor code violation.

Format: Include a cover page. Use a standard font (12-point Cambria or Times New Roman). Use 1" margins (top, bottom, left, right). Include references. Use APA 6th edition. Papers should be submitted electronically via TRACS on the due date.

Students will submit the papers in stages, receiving feedback throughout the process. This will include (1) submit research paper topic with a specific research question and at least 10 references formatted in APA, (2) (optional) submit completed paper for feedback prior to grading, and (3) final submission of research paper to be graded. Papers that do not conform to the listed requirements, are poorly organized, and/or exhibit substantial grammar/style problems will be returned to be rewritten and cannot earn higher than a 70%.

### **Book Summary & Analysis Presentation (50 points):**

Each student will choose a non-fiction book about sex crimes/sex offenders to read. Each student will give a 10 to 12-minute presentation at the end of the semester. A list of suggested books is provided on TRACS. Students can, however, choose a book that is not on the list. The presentation should include a brief description of a few select points about the book and apply information learned through the lectures/reading material to provide additional insight into the book. Those who apply critical thinking skills (analyze issues, synthesize information, etc.) will be given higher grades than those who simply describe the book. Descriptive presentations will be given no higher than a grade of C.

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## **CLASSROOM POLICIES**

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### **Class Attendance:**

Students are expected to come to every class. After a student misses one class, his/her grade will be negatively affected (10-point reduction for 2 missed classes; 15-point reduction for 3 missed classes, and so on). If you need to arrive late/leave early, arrangements should be made before class. It is expected that students will complete their reading assignments prior to each 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. Discussing topics related to sexual interactions requires that students behave in a mature manner and respectful to others. Please

consider not taking this course if you believe you cannot behave appropriately or you will be negatively affected by such information. Also consider counseling resources if you or someone close to you has been sexually abused and you would like additional support/services: <http://www.counseling.txstate.edu>

**Mandatory Reporting of Abuse Disclosure:** I am required by Texas State University's Sexual Misconduct policy to report any sexual misconduct that I am made aware of; students should be aware any such disclosure will be reported in accordance to this policy and Title IX requirements. Details of this policy can be found here: <http://www.txstate.edu/oea/related-policies/Sexual-Misconduct-Policy.html>

**Disability:**

Students with a disability, which affects their academic performance, are expected to arrange for a meeting with the instructor so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Director of the Counseling Center as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (512) 245-3451.

**Submitting Assignments:**

All assignments (unless otherwise specified) are to be submitted via TRACS, under Assignments. Anytime you submit an assignment/paper/etc., please email a copy to yourself at the time of submission (as TRACS can be glitchy and this will provide a record/documentation of your completed assignment). Feedback for your assignment will be provided electronically. Thus, after your assignment has been graded, check TRACS for your feedback.

**Late Assignments:** Only assignments that are worth more than 10 points will be accepted late. Assignments due the last week of class can only be turned in two days late maximum. One-half of a letter grade (5 points for a 100-point assignment) will be taken off for late assignments.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Students are expected to be familiar with all University policies regarding academic dishonesty.

<http://www.dos.txstate.edu/TxState-Handbook/Rules-and-Policies/Honor-Code.html>

*Writing Assignments:* Students are expected to do their own work. It should be assumed that all assignments are to be completed by yourself (unless I have indicated otherwise).

Any form of plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism includes (but it is not limited to) paraphrasing someone else's work and not including the in-text citation, turning in a friend's work (or buying a copy from another person or company), cutting and pasting an author's exact words and passing it off as paraphrased information. You should not use five or more consecutive words from another source without quoting it or change a few of the author's original words, but keep the same sentence structure. It is each student's responsibility to be familiar with what constitutes plagiarism.

**Grading Policy:**

Each student can access his or her grade any time online. The grade is based on the total number of points you have earned divided by the total possible number of points.

**Grades are NOT Negotiable:**

At the end of the semester, if you are a few points away (or even one point) from the next grade, you will not have the opportunity to do additional work. Throughout the semester, each student should keep up with his/her grade and monitor his/her own progress. If you want a certain grade in this class, you should calculate the number of points needed on each exam/assignment to obtain that grade. Hold yourself accountable. All grades are posted on the course website; if the grade on the website is not accurate, contact me *immediately*.

**Grading Scale:**

100% - 90% = A  
89% - 80% = B  
79% - 70% = C  
69% - 60% = D  
<59% = F

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE<sup>1</sup>

Week #	Date	In-Class Lecture/Discussion/Topic	Assigned Readings	Anything Else Due?
1	Aug 27	<b>Introduction to Course &amp; Chapter 1</b>	(None)	
2	Sept 3	<b>Introduction to Sex Crimes</b>	Sex Crimes: Chapter 1, Introduction Hanson and Bussière 1998 article Bench & Allen 2013 article PhD Students/Optional for MS students: Bem 2004 article	
3	Sept 10	<b>Theories of Sexual Offending</b>	Sex Crimes: Chapter 2, Theory Miethe 2006 article PhD Students/Optional for MS students: Chapter 8, Mancini book.	
4	Sept 17	<b>Rape</b>	Sex Crimes: Chapter 3, Rape Deming et al. 2013 article	
5	Sept 24	<b>Child Sexual Abuse</b>	Sex Crimes: Chapter 4, Child Sexual Abuse Finkelhor et al. 2014 article PhD Students/Optional for MS students: Chapter 10, Mancini book.	Paper 1 topic, research question, and references Due at 10 p.m. on TRACS
6	Oct 1	<b>Child Pornography</b>	Sex Crimes: Chapter 5, Child Pornography Wolak et al. 2013 article	Exam 1 will be posted on October 2
7	Oct 8	<b>Juvenile Sex Offenders &amp; Female Sex Offenders</b>	Sex Crimes: Chapter 6, Juvenile Sex Offenders Sex Crimes: Chapter 7, Female Sex Offenders NYTimes articles: How can you	<b>Exam 1 (Topics Related to Chapters 1-5) due on Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 10 p.m. on TRACS</b>  Optional: Draft of Paper 1 Due

<sup>1</sup> The instructor reserves the right to add/change/delete material to the course syllabus. All announcements will be made in class, on TRACS, or both.

<b>Week #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>In-Class Lecture/Discussion/Topic</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>	<b>Anything Else Due?</b>
			distinguish a budding pedophile . . . & Beyond Betryal PhD Students/Optional for MS students: Chapter 11, Mancini book.	October 12 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday) at 10 p.m. on TRACS
8	Oct 15	<b>Institutional Sexual Abuse</b>	Sex Crimes: Chapter 8, Institutional Sexual Abuse Barnyard 2014 article	<b>Paper 1 due Due at 10 p.m. on TRACS</b>
9	Oct 22	<b>Investigations of Sex Crimes &amp; Sex Offenders</b>	Sex Crimes: Chapter 9, Investigations	Paper 2 topic, research question, & references Due at 10 p.m. on TRACS
10	Oct 29	<b>Assessment and Treatment of Sex Offenders</b>	Sex Crimes: Chapter 10, Assessment and Treatment of Sex Offenders Bitna et al. 2015 article	Optional: Draft of Paper 2 Due at 10 p.m. on TRACS
<b>11</b>	Nov 5	<b>Laws</b>	Sex Crimes: Chapter 11, Laws	<b>Research Paper 2 Due Due at 10 p.m. on TRACS</b>
<b>12</b>	Nov 12	No class meeting on Tuesday Monday: visit Pegasus (optional)		(ASC Conference) Exam 2 will be posted on November 12
<b>13</b>	Nov 19	Presentations		<b>Exam 2 due on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 10 p.m. on TRACS</b>
<b>14</b>	Nov 26	Presentations		(Thanksgiving week)
<b>15</b>	Dec 3	Guest Speakers (TBA)		Dec 5 <sup>th</sup> at 10 p.m. on TRACS

**Sex Crimes  
Updated Schedule**

<b>Week #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>In-Class Lecture/Discussion/Topic</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>	<b>Anything Else Due?</b>
<b>11</b>	Nov 5	Assessment and Treatment of Sex Offenders	Sex Crimes: Chapter 10, Assessment and Treatment of Sex Offenders Bitna et al. 2015 article	<b>Research Paper 2 Due at 10 p.m. on TRACS</b>
<b>12</b>	Nov 12	No class meeting on Tuesday	Sex Crimes: Chapter 11, Laws	(ASC Conference) Exam 2 will be posted on November 12
<b>13</b>	Nov 19	Presentations		<b>Exam 2 due on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 10 p.m. on TRACS</b>
	Nov 20	Visit Pegasus (optional)	Meet at 2:30pm near dumpster outside of Hines Red or White RAV 4 We'll be back by 6pm	
<b>14</b>	Nov 26	Presentations		(Thanksgiving week)
<b>15</b>	Dec 3	Guest Speaker: Emily Cordo Former Attorney for Sexual Violence Legal Services		Dec 5 <sup>th</sup> at 10 p.m. on TRACS