



**CJ 497 – Sex Crime Offenders**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2015**  
**Class Time: Wed (only) 4:30pm - 7:20pm**  
**Rm. SS 310**

**Instructor:** Dr. Willie Edwards, Associate Professor  
**Office Location:** Ferguson Hall, Social Science Bldg., Rm 217  
**Office Hours:** MWF 10:00am – 11:00am &  
Wed (only) 3:00pm – 4:00pm  
Any other Times, Please Schedule an Appointment  
**Office Phone:** (903) 886-5331  
**Office Fax:** (903) 886-5330  
**University Email Address:** willie.edwards@tamuc.edu

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

Textbook Required: Christina Mancini, 2014. *Sex Crime, Offenders, and Society*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Additional and/or supplementary required readings will be assigned during the semester.

**Course Description:**

This course and the textbook used will introduce the students to a broad overview of areas concerned with sex offenders and sex crime reform, presenting areas such as research, policy issues, and types of sex offenders. The textbook and additional readings will introduce the students to a large body of knowledge pertaining to sex crimes and sex offenders that currently exist. This course will allow us to investigate the nature and extent of sexual offending, and to survey the prominent explanation of sex crimes. We will research and become familiar with societal responses to sex offenders. We will examine sex crime policies and reform in the United States.

**Course Design:**

A combination of lectures, discussions, and presentations will be employed to investigate the subject area. Students are expected to participate in class discussions, to demonstrate that they are reading the material and to share with the class any interesting information associated with the subject matter of the class.

Because of the focus/topic of the class, the professor will expect all students to respect the comments and opinions of classmates. Common courtesy, and classroom decorum will be required and expected at all times. We recognize that the focus/topic of the class will be sensitive and that individuals will have an array of opinions, perspectives, beliefs, and experiences. We welcome classroom interaction, however order and respect will be demanded.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will become familiar with the various types of sex offenders and sex crimes. Students will demonstrate this familiarity by achieving pass scores on all exams and other writing assignments.
2. Students will become acquainted with the professional journals that focus on sex offenders and sex crimes, and demonstrate this acquaintance by reading assigned journal articles, plus successfully completing any assignments associated with this reading and gained knowledge.
3. Students will develop an understanding of the relationship between theory and research; policy and reform; recidivism and treatment; this understanding will be demonstrated by students successfully participating in graded class discussions held during the semester, and the completion of any other methods of measurement.
4. This course will endeavor to increase the student's skills in writing and verbal communication, especially in the topic areas of criminology and criminal justice as they relate to sex offenders and sex crimes; by engaging in oral presentations, class discussions, and writing assignments in and outside of class.
5. Each student will develop a reasonable amount of knowledge about this specific area (sex crimes, and offenders) within the field of crime and criminology which will be displayed by student's performance on class exams and the successful completion of all other class assignments

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS****Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments****Methods of Evaluation:****Course Possible points:****Grading****The following grade scale will be used:**

- A = 90 – 100
- B = 80 - 89
- C = 70 - 79
- D = 60 - 69
- F = 59 or below

**All criminal justice majors must make at least a C in all classes required for the major.**

There will be no individual extra credit work, and no make-up exams. If an exam is missed a comprehensive exam must be taken by the student near the end of the semester. If a student misses more than one exam he or she should drop the course. Graded discussions and summaries cannot be turned in late or made up. **Late work is unacceptable.**

<b>COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT</b>
----------------------------------

**Interaction with Instructor Statement:****Contact of Professor:**

Students wishing to contact the Professor should visit his office during the stated office hours or make an appointment. Students may also contact the Professor using the office telephone number or the email, both are provided on the first page of this class syllabus.

**Research Assistance:**

For research assistance, students should contact: Ms. Emily Witsell Reference Librarian at James G. Gee Library Room 218; 903-886-5719 emily.witsell@tamuc.edu or <http://www.tamuc.edu/library>

**Tips on How to be successful in this Class:**

1. Students must commit serious time to reading the textbook, and other assigned readings.
2. Students should ask questions of the professor if there is any information he/she does not understand.
3. Students should regularly attend class.
4. Students should take good, clear and understandable notes from the lectures.
5. Students must commit a serious amount of time to preparation for the exams.
6. Students must make the most of the “easy” grades so they help to balance or soften the more difficult grades.

<b>COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES</b>
--

**Course Specific Procedures:****Class Policy:**

Class attendance and participate are expected. Tardiness is reacted to in an unfavorably manner. Students will not be permitted to enter the class after the professor has initiated the focus for that class period.

Telephone and pagers must be placed on vibrate but should not be answered unless you work for some type of emergency agency (medical or law enforcement, etc.) or you know it to be an emergency call.

A scantron answer sheet (blue) and a number two pencil should be brought to class for each exam, unless instructed differently by the professor.

This department has a strong policy and a low tolerance for cheating. Plagiarism is disliked and treated very seriously. Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. “Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing or removal) of resource material.

Sites that address plagiarism and how to avoid it: <http://www.plagiarism.org> or <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/hanouts/plagiarism.html>.

A student may drop a course by logging into their MYLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled ‘Drop a class’ from among the choices found under the MYLEO section of the Web page.

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the rules or policies relating to withdrawal or "X." You are encouraged to follow the appropriate procedures of the university as they relate to this matter. I will be as helpful and understanding where possible, but please be aware that this professor does not like to give an incomplete as a grade.

### **University Specific Procedures:**

#### **ADA Statement :**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)  
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

#### **Student Conduct:**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

A&M Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
----------------------------------

### **Course Content Schedule – CJ 497 – Spring 2015**