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**47:204:314Q1: Sex, Sexuality, Crime & Justice**

**3 Credits**

**Fall 2024**

**Monday, 6:00 – 9:00pm, Hill Hall, Room 107**

**Instructor**: Dr. Nicole Swiderski

**Pronouns:** she/her/hers

**Instructor email:** nicole.sachs@rutgers.edu or nms152@scj.rutgers.edu

I try to return emails within 72 hours. This means that I will miss last-minute questions and extension requests, so plan accordingly. I will not address substantive course questions over email; experience has shown that an email exchange is a poor way of discussing course material.

**Office Hours & Location:** 5:30 – 6:00pm Wednesdays, or by appointment**;** SCJ Lecturer’s Office, or online via Zoom

**Course Description:**

This course examines ways in which the criminal legal system defines, regulates, polices, and punishes sexuality, sexual activity, reproduction, and sexual violence. It begins with an exploration of sexuality, sexually deviant acts, and sex crimes. It will then move on to discuss historical current laws (and punishments) in place for those who commit sexual violence, current public opinion towards sex practices, myths about sex offenders, and resources for victims. Specific topics to be addressed are Megan’s Law offenders, typologies of sex offenders, sex offender risk assessments, sexual abuse on college campuses, incels, bestiality, and illegal IVF and surrogacy practices. Further, the course will explore treatments for those convicted of sex offenses, and the treatment of sex offenders under parole supervision. Discussions on recidivism and desistance will conclude the course.

**Course Learning Goals:**

Describe the history of sexuality and views towards sex in the United States.

Explain the motivations behind sex crime as they relate to various sociological, psychological,
and/or criminological theories regarding victimization and offender behavior.

Categorize sex offenders based on personal characteristics, type of sex crimes, and modus
operandi.

Identify sources of data for sex crimes, and trends in sex crimes over past decades.

Analyze current policies that address sex crimes and highlight the pros and cons of such legislation.

Evaluate the effectiveness of sex crime policies and treatment programs in preventing or decreasing sex crimes.

Assess strategies to educate and prevent sexual assault on college campuses.

**Prerequisite:**

(21:355:102 ENGLISH COMPOSITION) or
(21:355:104 HONORS ENGLISH COMPOSITION)

**B.S., Criminal Justice Program Learning Goals:**

Upon completion of the B.S. in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark, students should be able to:

1. Describe the development and functions of major criminal justice institutions (e.g., police, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice), the activities of actors within these institutions, and how they relate to one another as well as the broader social, political, and economic world.

2. Describe the mechanisms, correlates, theoretical underpinnings, and situational contexts of crime, criminal behavior and opportunity, and techniques for prevention and treatment.

3. Apply and analyze theories related to the policies and practices of the criminal justice system and its major institutions.

4. Demonstrate the ability to gather, explain, and apply empirical research in the field of criminal justice.

5. Obtain a comprehensive knowledge about the process of conducting criminal justice research and develop the skills to conduct criminal justice research with appropriate methodologies.

**Required Readings:**

Mancini, C. (2021). *Sex crime, offenders & society* (2nd Ed.). Carolina Academic Press.
ISBN: 9781531019587 (ebook); 9781611637694 (paperback)

All additional readings are posted on Canvas.

**Course Expectations for Students:**

* Read the syllabus, course materials and assigned readings. I welcome clarification questions, but I will not answer emails that ask for information that is already contained in course documents. I will not accept excuses along the lines of “I didn’t know...” for something that is clearly spelled out in a course announcement or document.
* Attend all course meetings and be present from the beginning to the end of all class sessions (no tardiness, leaving early).
* Participate in class discussions in a manner that shows your familiarity with the course's materials.
* Check Canvas regularly to stay informed about the course; all course announcements are posted there.
* Send professional emails that follow SCJ email guidelines (see end of this document)
* Follow classroom rules:
1. Conduct yourself appropriately and professionally. Show respect to other students and guests. Consider alternative thoughts, ideas, opinions, and experiences. Make sure your questions and comments are respectful, relevant, and help clarify points or add to the conversation. Use person centered language. Avoid stigmatizing labels and terms.
2. No earbuds, headphones, no web-surfacing, email checking, sending texts, etc.
3. Follow the basic academic standards of honesty and integrity specified in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity>. Violations of the policy will result in appropriate action (e.g., failing assignment, failing course, academic probation, dismissal).

**Assessments**

**Class Participation:** 10%

**In class quizzes:** 15% (3 quizzes x 5%)

**Papers:**

1. Cults and Extremist Groups Comparison Paper: 15% (see assignment sheet, grading rubric on Canvas)
2. Rough draft: 5%
3. Final draft: 10%
4. Illicit Sex in America Paper: 20% (see assignment sheet, grading rubric on Canvas)
5. Rough draft: 5%
6. Final draft: 15%
7. RU – Newark Sexual Assault Statistics Short Paper: 5% (see assignment sheet, grading rubric on Canvas)
8. Sex Offender Paper: 35% (see assignment sheet, grading rubric on Canvas)
9. Rough draft: 10% (5-6 pages)
10. Final draft: 25%

Use Times New Roman 12-point font, 1-inch margins, and double-space your papers. Follow APA Guidelines for all in-text citations and references. Papers should include separate Title and References pages; these pages do not count towards the length requirement. Students should not include an Abstract. Papers must be submitted electronically as PDF or Word files on Canvas.

**Deadlines:** Contact the instructor at least three (3) days before an assignment is due if you are struggling to meet a deadline. Extensions are rare but may be provided on a case-by-case basis given extenuating circumstances. **Late assignments** receive a 10-point penalty for each day late (e.g., a paper graded as an 86 would receive 76 if up to one (1) day late, 66 if up to two (2) days late, etc.).

**Contesting Grades:** You must provide a written explanation if you wish to contest a grade. This written justification must be specific in its argument and engage the work you submitted and the feedback you received. You must submit your request together with the original assignment **no sooner than 24 hours and no later than one (1) week after I return the assignment**. Any revised grade you receive will be your final grade, and it may go up or down. I will not respond to requests to modify grades because you believe you worked harder than your grade reflects (I grade all assignments on merit, not effort) or to improve your GPA.

**Extra Credit:** There is **NO** option for extra credit assignments in this course.

**Grading scale:**

A 90-100
B+ 86-89
B 80-85
C 70-79
D 60-69
F 59 and below

**Class Schedule: Topics, Readings, and Assignments**(Subject to Change at the Discretion of the Instructor and/or Rutgers University)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class Date | Topic(s) | Readings | Assignment(s) Due\* |
| September 9 | Course Overview; Writing Expectations; Important Terminology; Intro to Sex Crimes | Syllabus | None |
| September 16 | Sex Offender Typologies & Theoretical Explanations  | *Mancini* Chapter 1 | None |
| September 23 | Measuring Sex Crime | *Mancini* Chapter 2 |  |
| September 30 | Sex Crime Patterns and Trends | *Mancini* Chapter 3 | Quiz 1 covering Chapters 1-3 in class on October 7 |
| October 7 | Prominent Theoretical Explanations**\*\*QUIZ 1\*\*** | *Mancini* Chapter 4 | DRAFT of Cults and Extremist Groups Comparison Paper due by 11:59pm Sunday, October 13 |
| October 14 | Societal Myths and Facts about Sex Offenders | *Mancini* Chapter 5 | None |
| October 21 | Public Attitudes towards Sex Offenders*Special Topics: Incels, Bestiality, and Illegal IVF and Surrogacy*  | *Mancini* Chapter 6 | Quiz 2 covering Chapters 4-6 in class on October 28Cults and Extremist Groups Comparison Paper due by 11:59pm Sunday, October 27 |
| October 28 | Historical Emergence of Sex Offender Laws and Reforms in the U.S.**\*\*QUIZ 2\*\*** | *Mancini* Chapter 7 | None |
| November 4 | Logic and Efficacy of Sex Offender Laws | *Mancini* Chapter 8 | DRAFT of Illicit Sex in America Paper due by 11:59pm Friday, November 8 |
| November 11 | Methods to Address Sex Offender Recidivism and Treatment Needs | *Mancini* Chapter 9 | Illicit Sex in America Paper due by 11:59pm Sunday, November 17 |
| November 18 | Legal Challenges to Sex Crime Laws | *Mancini* Chapter 10 | None |
| November 25 | College and University Sex Assault | *Mancini* Chapter 11 | DRAFT of Sex Offender Paper due by 11:59pm Sunday, December 1 |
| December 2 | The Future of Sex Crime Policy | *Mancini* Chapter 12 | Quiz 3 covering Chapters 7-12 in class on December 9RU – Newark Sexual Assault Statistics Paper due by 11:59pm Sunday, December 8 |
| December 9 | Guest Speaker on Supervising Sex Offenders on Parole**\*\*QUIZ 3\*\*** | None | None |
| December 16 | None – FINALS WEEK | None | **Sex Offender Paper due on Canvas by 11:59pm** |

**\*NOTE:** You may encounter language, depictions, or attitudes that you find sensitive, triggering, or offensive when learning about sex crimes. Make an appointment to see me the week before the class if you would like to be excused from a particular class for this reason.

**Accommodation and Support Statement**

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

**For Individuals Experiencing Disability:** The Office of Disability Services (ODS) works with students with medical, physical, and/or mental conditions who encounter disabling barriers in order to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations for access. Students who have completed the process with ODS and have approved accommodations are provided a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) specific to each course. To initiate accommodations for their course students must both provide the LOA to and have a conversation with the course instructor about the accommodations. This should occur as early in the semester as possible. More information can be found at the [RU-N ODS website (ods.newark.rutgers.edu)](https://ods.newark.rutgers.edu/). Contact ODS at (973) 353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Individuals who are Pregnant**: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-5063 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Short-term Absence Verification:** The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](https://policies.rutgers.edu/1027-currentpdf) Students requesting a letter of verification should submit information using the following link: <https://go.rutgers.edu/Verification>.

**For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries:** The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

**For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: <https://go.rutgers.edu/RUNReportingForm>.

**For support related to Interpersonal Violence:** The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) can provide any student with confidential support. The office does **not** have a reporting obligation to Title IX. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based helpline available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support. Students do not need to be a victim/survivor of violence; any student can receive services, information and support.

**For Crisis and Concerns:** The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a plan of support plan and address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Connect with the CARE Team by using the following link: <https://go.rutgers.edu/RUNReportingForm> or emailing careteam@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Psychological Support (Stress, Mood, Family Issues, Substance Use concerns and other personal challenges):** The Rutgers University-Newark Counseling Center provides individual therapy and support groups for students dealing with psychological issues. To schedule an appointment, email counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or call (973) 353-5805. Additional support is available through Uwill services:

* Uhelp: Crisis support at 833-646-1526 (available 24/7/365).
* Urise: Wellness-based video collection with a free account.
* Umatch: Teletherapy with flexible scheduling, starting with a free account.

Access Uwill@RUN at https://my.rutgers.edu using your netid. Services are confidential and free.

For emergencies, call 911 or Rutgers University Police Department at (973) 353-5111.

**School of Criminal Justice Email Guidelines**

Email is an important communication tool. The following guidelines will help ensure that your message is viewed positively and taken seriously.

 • Be precise in the subject line of your email (“I have a question about dropping a class” is better than “Question”).

• Use the person’s job position or title (e.g., Dear Assistant Dean Harry; Good morning Professor Silver; Good afternoon, Professor Apel). Consult the SCJ website if you're unsure of a person’s position or title.

 • Introduce yourself and issue (e.g., Hello. I am XXX XXX a student in your class XXXX. I am writing to ask about XXXX).

• Write in complete, coherent sentences. Correct spelling and grammar errors. Check for accuracy.

• Consider requesting or setting up an appointment if you have multiple questions (e.g., you can use Run4Success or the Navigate App to make appointments with APSS staff).

• Direct your email to the one person most appropriate to address your issue or answer your question (e.g., Advisor or Instructor). They will share your email with an Assistant Dean or Dean if appropriate. Copying multiple people typically results in a longer response time as people try to figure out who will respond.

 • Staff, faculty, instructors, and teaching assistants are not expected to answer email in the evening (after 6 pm) or on weekends; individuals may do so, but DO NOT expect people to respond outside of work hours. You can use the tool provided by most email platforms to set the day and time your email will be sent if you write emails after 6 pm or on the weekend.

• During peak periods (e.g., registration, add/drop period, the period just before an exam) staff, faculty and instructors may need up to 72 hours to respond. In non‐peak periods, please wait 24 hours after sending an email before sending a follow up.

 • During the week, please wait 24 hours after sending an email before sending a follow up.

 • Staff, faculty, instructors, and teaching assistants will not respond to emails that have hostile, abusive, or threatening language. Emails that are likely to cause alarm violate the University Code of Conduct and will be forward to the Office of Community Standards & Student Development