

Sam Houston State University
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
CRIJ – 3364.01 Special Offenders & Special Needs
Fall – 2017

Professor: Rissie Owens

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Office Hours: Tu/Th 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Class Hours: Tu/Th 2:00-3:20 p.m.. Room C-210

Course Text:

Hanser, R. D. (2007). *Special Needs Offenders in the Community*. Pearson, New Jersey.

Course Description:

This course is designed to help you get an understanding of special offender populations and offenders with special needs. Special offenders included are those that are rarely covered in standard criminology courses. Examples of special offenders are varied, but could include wildlife poachers, mass and serial killers, sex offenders, computer hackers, substance abusers, and scam artists. Offenders with special needs may also include female offenders, gang members, geriatric offenders, offenders with learning disabilities and mental handicaps, violent offenders and career offenders. This course looks at the impact these offenders have on public safety and the CJ system.

Course Goals and Objectives:

The student will learn about a variety of special offenders and the complexity of special needs associated with these offenders. The student will learn about criminal behavior, criminal activity and the role played by the components of the Criminal Justice system in dealing with and handling the special offenders. Students will become better informed about the vast array of offenders encountered within the field of criminal justice. Some of the objectives for this course include the following:

1. Understand the types of special offenders and their characteristics
2. Learn treatment strategies associated with special offenders
3. Analyze and critique the role of punishment in offender decision making
4. Understand administrative issues and considerations for special offenders and special needs in the criminal justice system
5. Extend learning beyond the classroom

Attendance Policy:

1. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student.
2. Students are expected to remain in each class session for the full time period.
3. Individuals not officially enrolled in our class are not permitted to be present (except guest speakers selected and authorized by the instructor).
4. The instructor is required to take regular class attendance and maintain a record of student attendance.
5. Class attendance will be recorded and counted from the actual day of enrollment for the individual student in this specific class.

6. For each unexcused absence, one (1) point will be deducted from the student's course grade.
7. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying assignments or examinations.
8. Students are expected to personally meet with the instructor to arrange for accepting late work or making-up tests, prior to the next class period. Failure to accept this responsibility by the student results in receiving a zero grade.
9. Students are expected to perform assigned reading and acquire class information for any class sessions missed due to absences.
10. A personal telephone call to the instructor, prior to any class, concerning attendance and assignments is appropriate and encouraged.

Grading Policy:

1. There will be three (3) tests scheduled and administered during our class time for the semester.
2. All tests are taken without any use of assisting material or devices.
3. Each test will have the value of 100 possible points.
4. Test may consist of multiple choice, true/false and essay questions. The test will cover information covered in class as well as material for the assigned readings in the textbook.
5. PLEASE BRING A SCANTRON WITH YOU TO THE EXAMS.
6. **Current Event Papers:**
Current Event Papers will be one page in length and will be due on (9/14, 10/5, 10/26, 11/16). These papers should pertain to "special needs offenders in the CJ system (probation, prison or parole). The paper should be a discussion of an article found in the news media. This can be obtained from a newspaper, magazine, or the internet. Please attach a copy of the article with you synopsis. Please do not exceed one page. Current Event Papers will be 25% of you grade (100 pts. or 25 pts. each). Failure to submit an assignment on the designated dates will result in a 10-pt reduction from your Current Events Grade.
7. Your final grade will be based on a point system appropriate percentage:
Test 1 – 25%
Test 2 – 25%
Test 3 – 25%
Current Events Papers – 25%
8. It is the responsibility of the individual student to personally arrange with the instructor about any missed assessments and assignments to be made up. (Normally this should occur prior to the next class period)
9. Failure to complete any work which earns a grade will result in a zero for that particular assignment.
10. Be Reminded one (1) pt. for each unexcused absence will be deducted from the course grade.
11. Extra Credit Opportunities – TBA

Additional Information:

1. Students are expected to bring materials necessary to take notes and complete written assignments.
2. Students are encouraged to have an inquiring mind and actively participate in discussion, appropriate to the course material.
3. Students are responsible for any material or information missed during a class absence.

4. Students should feel free to contact the instructor for appointments to provide needed assistance with course material. Please know that your individual success in this course is important to both of us.
5. There will be no use of tobacco products allowed in the classroom.
6. No use of cell phones allowed during class. If you have an emergency or on "duty status" bring this situation up to the instructors attention prior to class.
7. Any use or recording devices must have prior approval of their instructor. If such devices distract others they must be eliminated.
8. All tests and examinations will be taken without assisting materials in sight. Sorry but caps are not allowed on testing days.
9. You are certainly encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions, but remember to respect others present. Please avoid bringing up personal situations unless called upon by the instructor to do so.
10. If we go on scheduled field trips, a specific dress code will be required and certain items cannot be in your possession. Confidentiality will be explained prior to any such trips.
11. Individuals not enrolled in this course (children, friends, etc.) are simply not allowed to be present.
12. Sleeping and distractions are not considered appropriate behaviors in our classroom.
13. Acts of dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in consequences (see Academic Policies).
14. University Policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor concerning excuses to observe religious holy days (see Academic Policies).
15. Failure to attend class and perform required assignments and assessments will be reported to the Dean.
16. Exams turned in with the answers typed will not be graded.
17. You are university students but please remember to make certain you have your name readable on all work submitted for a grade.

Expectations:

I expect your presence.

I expect your participation and preparation.

I expect your very best behavior.

I expect your very best efforts to learn.

Academic Policies:

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html

SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY:

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

LET'S HAVE A GREAT CLASS!

Class Schedule:

Please be advised that the reading schedule and class lectures may vary as some topics take longer to cover than others. Your attendance is important considering there may be changes to the schedule. Lectures will be supplemented periodically with guest speakers and videos to help students understand a more holistic perspective of special offenders and special needs in the CJ system.

Class Schedule

8/ 24	Intro to the Course / Review Syllabus/ History and Definition of Offenders with Special Needs	
8/29 8/31	Offenders with Special Needs/The Texas Criminal Justice System	Ch. 1
9/5-9/7	Risk Assessments, Recidivism Prediction, Probation, PSI and Classification of Offenders	Ch. 2
9/12-9/14	Substance Abusers: Substance Abuse Programs;(Guest Speaker) CEPD	Ch. 3
9/19-9/21	The Need for Programming (SNO,Faith Based, Gender Specific...)	Ch. 4
9/26-9/28	Exam Review / Exam 1	
10/3- 10/5	Mentally Ill Offenders (Guest Speaker) CEPD	Ch. 5
	Offenders with Intellectual and Learning-disabilities	Ch. 6
10/12-10/15	Juvenile Offenders/ Legal Issues with Juvenile Offenders	Ch. 7
10/17-10/19	Sex Offenders(Guest Speaker)	Ch. 9
10/24-10/26	Female Offenders CEPD	Ch. 11
	Exam Review	
10/31-11/2	Exam 2	
11/7-11/9	The Immigrant Population	Ch. 13
11/14-11/16	Geriatric Offenders/ Elderly Offenders/ CEPD	Ch. 14
11/21-11/23	Restorative justice and special needs offenders Happy Thanksgiving!!!!!!!!!!!!	
11/28-11/30	Special Offenders- Law Enforcement	

SHSU Final Exam, Week December 4-7

******* Final Exam – Tuesday 7, 2017 12:00-2:00 PM *******

