

THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA
College of Education & Professional Studies
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Spring 2025
CCJ 3691 Sex Offenses & the Offender (3chs)

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Niebuhr

Office: Building 85, Room 148

Email: nniebuhr@uwf.edu

Class location: Online

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11:30am -2:30pm, and by appointment

Course Description

Comprehensive overview of psychological, sociological and legal issues related to sex offenses. Additionally, the sexual offenders and different typologies of the sex offender will be discussed.

Textbook:

Terry, K. J. (2012). *Sexual Offenses and Offenders: Theory, Practice, and Policy*. Cengage Learning.

ISBN: 9781133049821

Additional readings:

There will be additional book chapters and journal articles which will be provided

Course Topics

- Measurement of Sex Crimes
- History of Sexual Offending
- Myths of Sex Offenders
- Adult Offender Typologies
- Juvenile Sexual Offenders
- Sex Offending within Institutional Settings
- Legal Responses to Sexual Offending and Offenders
- Community Management of Sex Offenders
- Risk Assessment and Treatment of Sex Offenders/Victims

- Theories of Sexual Offending/Offenders

Learning Outcome

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to:

- 1) Explain the historical and mainstream context of sexual offending within the U.S.
- 2) Describe the extent of sexual offending within the U.S.
- 3) Describe the psychological/demographic characteristics of sex offenders, common victim preferences, and life history traits that separate sex offender typologies
- 4) Explain why sex offenders are a unique population of offender and why they warrant special attention by the criminal justice system.

Class Assignments

Get to Know Your Classmates Post

I like to start out each semester by having you introduce yourself to the class so we can all get to know each other a bit.

Plagiarism & Citation Quiz

PowerPoints and other resources on plagiarism and citing correctly are provided to you. It is important in this course you cite correctly. The first week you will complete a short quiz on this topic.

Weekly Assignments

You will have weekly assignments based on the readings, videos, podcasts or other class material provided that week. The weekly assignments are worth 10 points. There will be a rubric used to grade. Included in the rubric is APA format, meeting requirements (e.g. word count) and content (e.g. correctness and thoroughness of answer). You are to use class material in your responses.

Minute papers

These short papers are a way for me to touch base with you over the course of the semester. They will only be a few sentences long and the goal is for you to let me know how things are going, what you like, what you have questions on ect.

Final Project

For your final project you will create an infographic. The assignment will explore the sex offender registry and will require the use of 5 scholarly sources. Detailed directions will be posted on Canvas.

Late assignments will not be accepted.

Exams

There will be two exams in the course. They will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false and short essay. They will be timed (60 minutes), there will be one question visible at a time and you will not be able to go back.

No late work will be accepted. Make-up work will be granted only when prior arrangements are made with the professor and as a result of an [excused absence*](#).

Grades

Get to know your classmates post – 5 points
Plagiarism & Citation Quiz- 5 points
Weekly assignments - 10 points each (120total)
Exams – 50 points each (100 total)
Final project – 125 points
Minute papers – 3 points (9 total)
Total points for class: 364 points

Percentage	Letter Grade
93% or better	A
90% to 92%	A-
87% to 89%	B+
83% to 86%	B
80% to 82%	B-
77% to 79%	C+
73% to 76%	C
70% to 72%	C-
67% to 69%	D+
60% to 66%	D
59% or less	F

NOTE: Final grades are determined by the total number of points you earned divided by the total number of points possible. I do not round grades. Do not email me at the end of the semester asking for extra credit or if I will round your grade.

Minimum Technical Skills & Technology Requirements

You will need to be familiar with several common word processor software (e.g. Microsoft Word), PDF viewer (e.g. Adobe), and presentation viewer (e.g. Microsoft PowerPoint). Internet

Access is required for this course. If you have technological issues the best course of action is to contact UWF Information Technology Services (ITS) (850-474-2075; helpdesk@uwf.edu).

Communication

I anticipate that you will have questions and concerns for me to address. Your best option is to e-mail me at nniebuhr@uwf.edu. Please note that I may not respond right away, but it is my policy to reply within 24 hours Monday through Friday at noon. If you email me after noon on Friday you will get a response on Monday.

You should be aware of what you are writing. You need to be professional and practice sending e-mails in proper form. When you enter the workforce, you will need to know how to do this to communicate properly and professionally. To get an e-mail response from me, please use the following guidelines:

- Put something relevant to your topic in the subject line. Keep it brief, but let me know what you need from me. For example: Missing Class or Assignment Question
- Address me properly. Your best bet is to begin your e-mail with Dear, or Hi Dr. Niebuhr.
- Keep it simple. You wouldn't believe how many people blow my e-mail up, so please keep things as short and to the point as possible. If you have more than one question, use numbers or bullet points so I can be sure to address everything. If you have a very long question or a concern about the course, you would be better off making an appointment with me or seeing me during my office hours.
- Answer me. If I send you an answer to your question or send you some sort of attachment, please let me know that you received it. Otherwise I have no idea if I helped you or if you even got what I sent.
- Add your signature. At the end of your email, please be sure you include an ending of some kind ("Sincerely" works well), your name, and what class you are in.
- Grammar, spelling, and punctuation all matter. Double check your email for mistakes. It is hard for me to take you seriously if your email hardly makes sense. Do not use all capital letters in anything, as that is designed to convey anger or other strong emotions. Make sure words are capitalized that should be, and those should not be, are not. Hey! If you are still reading this, send me your favorite meme, or a picture of a cute dog by midnight on January 30th for three extra credit points. Your spell checker is helpful but does not catch everything, so be aware of what you are writing.

Academic Conduct and Plagiarism Statement

The University of West Florida is dedicated to the highest principles and standards of academic integrity. An academic violation by a student can negatively impact a class, program and/or college in ways that are unique to each discipline. . . . Academic integrity is closely related to professional ethics and requires that students honestly acknowledge their use of the ideas, words,

and written work produced by any other individual, institution or source. Failure to acknowledge properly the use of another's intellectual output constitutes a form of academic misconduct. (UWF Academic Misconduct Code, UWF Student Planner and Handbook 2011-2012, p. 38)

The **Student Code of Conduct** (PDF) sets forth the rules, regulations, and expected behavior of students enrolled at the University of West Florida. Violations of any rules, regulations, or behavioral expectations may result in a charge of violating the Student Code of Conduct. It is the student's responsibility to read the Student Code of Conduct and comply with these expectations. The **Academic Misconduct Policy** (2017) defines various forms of academic misconduct and describes the procedures an instructor should follow when he or she suspects that a student has violated the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Use of AI

The use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Dall-e, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Organizing your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is **not** permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts or content that you put into a Zoom chat.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs, papers or PowerPoints to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be appropriately documented and cited to stay compliant with university policies on academic honesty. See *Citing AI Content resources* and *ChatGPT and AI in Higher Education* for details on how to cite. You will choose the **APA 7th edition** for documenting and citing references. **Any assignment that is found to have used generative AI tools in unauthorized ways will be handled as any other case of academic misconduct.** When in doubt about permitted usage, please ask for clarification.

Additional Information on Plagiarism

Your writing is your intellectual property. Guard it carefully. You could find yourself in the unpleasant position of trying to prove that you are the true author of this work. Save preliminary drafts of your work, reading notes, data collection sheets, and copies of library sources you make while researching your paper. You may be asked to produce these if questions of authorship arise. Make back-up copies to protect your work from computer failures.

I reserve the right to submit written assignments to the Turnitin service or use other methods to evaluate the originality of the work submitted. I will remove personal identifiers from any electronic files I submit to the Turnitin database for evaluation.

Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic standards and will be punished severely. Students who plagiarize will fail the course and will be referred to the Dean for academic dishonesty. Some students are surprised to learn that they plagiarized themselves when they inappropriately used work produced for one course in another course. If you are unsure, ask your instructor for guidance. See the UWF Student Planner and Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct for information about the University policy on academic conduct and plagiarism and the consequences for students who engage in academic misconduct.

Veterans Services Statement

The UWF Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) serves as a leading campus advocate for military and veterans students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through coordinating with multiple university offices and services. The center provides assistance with the following: GI Bill ® education benefits, active duty tuition assistance, out of state fee waiver, tutoring, paper reading, counseling, disability accommodations, coordinating academic advising and referral to state /federal resources and services. The MVRC is located in Bldg. 38. For more information on MVRC service, call 850-474-2550 or visit [Military & Veterans Resource Center](#).

Emergency Information and Course Continuity Statement

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the campus might be closed and classes cancelled. Official closures and delays are announced on the UWF website and broadcast on WUWF-FM.

Weather Emergency Information

- WUWF-FM (88.1MHz) is the official information source for the University. Any pertinent information regarding closings, cancellations, and the re-opening of campus will be broadcast.
- In the event that hurricane preparation procedures are initiated, the UWF Home web page and MyUWF will both provide current information regarding hurricane preparation procedures, the status of classes, and the closing of the University.

Emergency plans for the University of West Florida related to inclement weather are available on the following UWF web pages:

- [Hurricane and Tropical Storm Preparedness](#)
- [Emergency Operations and Procedures](#)

Managing Stress

At the University of West Florida we recognize that to learn, thrive and flourish you may need a little assistance. Please take advantage of the free resources here on campus. If you experience a health concern, contact Student Health Services at (850) 474-2172. If you experience a mental health or substance use concern contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 850-474-2420. In a mental health emergency, students can reach a counselor on call 24 hours a day by calling 850-474-2420 and following the prompts.

Assistance Reporting Discrimination

University of West Florida faculty members are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination and harassment policies. Under Title IX, discrimination and harassment based upon sex or gender (including sexual violence and sexual misconduct) are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination or harassment, you do not have to go through the experience alone. Know that while you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University the faculty are required to notify the University's Title IX Coordinator so that support services can be provided to you. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, you may schedule an appointment with the UWF's Counseling and Psychological Services at (850) 474-2420. This service is free for students. Faculty can also help direct you, or you may refer to [UWF's Equity and Diversity](#) office for additional resources.

Assistance for Students with Special Needs

The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with [Student Accessibility Resources](#). Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, contact SAR.

Student Accessibility Resources (SAR)

Bldg. 21/Rm. 110
11000 University Pkwy.
Pensacola, FL 32514
(850) 474-2387 | sar@uwf.edu

For Your Protection

For those of you working in the CJ system in some capacity, it is understood that your statements, comments, and replies do not necessarily reflect your personal or professional beliefs and practices or reflect your agency. All statements, comments, and replies in this course are for educational purposes only and are to further and enhance the quality of the educational experience.

Subject to Change

This syllabus is subject to change as needed throughout the semester. If changes are necessary, they will be announced in class and via email.

UWF is committed to ensuring an inclusive learning environment for all students. To that end, we are invested in making online courses accessible to the widest possible audience, regardless of technology or ability. We have reviewed this course for baseline accessibility, which includes the captioning of videos, and use with assistive technology. This may not include some complex content (graphs, images, and/or equations). If you have a disability that impacts your full participation in this course, please contact the Student Accessibility Resources at 850-474-2387 or by email, sar@uwf.edu.

Class Behavior

Many of the topics we will cover are sensitive, controversial, and emotional. While reading assignments, you may find some of the material uncomfortable or unsettling. Moreover, students may find topics uncomfortable because of past experiences or the experience of loved ones. Given millions of people worldwide have been victimized, it is highly likely someone in our class has experienced some type of victimization. Please show respect for your classmates.

You will never be forced to participate or watch videos that make you uncomfortable. If at any point you feel uncomfortable, please let me know and we can work to find an alternative reading/video/assignment.

The theme of this class is respect. I will treat you with respect and I expect the same treatment from you. In addition, I ask that you also be respectful to classmates. This means that no disparaging comments about classmates or about me will not be tolerated. Students who continue to display rude and disrespectful behaviors will be given a warning. If the behavior continues, students will be asked to meet with me to address the problem.

Mandatory Reporting for Title IX

Due to the difficult nature of the material addressed in this course, you may experience a need or desire to ventilate about the topic or process some of your own personal experiences with victimization. This is a completely normal response. Some students find they want to discuss these feelings or experiences with a supportive friend or other adult. While discussions in class and/or online are not the appropriate venue for this processing to take place, I am available to provide referrals and offer course-related support as necessary. If you share with me, either in person, in writing assignments, and/or during class, please be aware that under state and federal reporting guidelines, I cannot be a confidential resource and may have to inform others of what you have told me. This, in no way, is an effort to discourage you from reporting. I am informing you of my duties and responsibilities as a mandatory reporter. What is most important to me is

that you are connected to the appropriate resources, such as an advocate or counseling. For your reference, additional support resources are included on this syllabus.

Resources

UWF Counseling and Psychological Services
National Sexual Assault Hotline
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
National Domestic Violence Hotline

Phone: 1. 850.474.2420
Phone: 1.800.656.HOPE (4673)
Phone: 1.800.273.8255
Phone: 1.800.799.SAFE (7233)

Week 1		
Wednesday, January 8, 2024	Welcome, review syllabus	
Sunday, January 12, 2025		Get to know your classmates discussion post due 11:59pm Syllabus Quiz due 11:59pm
Week 2		
Monday, January 13, 2025	Terry Chapters 1 & 2	
Sunday, January 19, 2025		Weekly assignment due 11:59pm
Week 3		
Tuesday, January 21, 2025	Terry Chapter 3	
Sunday, January 26, 2025		Weekly assignment due 11:59pm Minute paper due 11:59pm
Week 4		
Monday, January 27, 2025	Terry Chapter 4	
Sunday, February 2, 2025		Weekly assignment due 11:59pm
Week 5		
Monday, February 3, 2025	Mancini Chapter 5 (posted on Canvas)	
Sunday, February 9, 2025		Weekly assignment due 11:59pm
Week 6		

Monday, February 10, 2025	Terry chapter 5	
Sunday, February 16, 2025		Weekly assignment due 11:59pm
Week 7		
Monday, February 17, 2025	Terry chapter 6	
Sunday, February 23, 2025		Weekly assignment due 11:59pm Minute paper due 11:59pm
Week 8		
Monday, February 24, 2025	Review for exam	
Sunday, March 2, 2025		Exam due 11:59pm
Week 9		
Monday, March 3, 2025	Holmes & Holmes chapter 9	Weekly assignment due 11:59pm
Sunday, March 9, 2025		
Week 10		
Monday, March 10, 2025	Terry Chapter 9	
Sunday, March 16, 2025		Weekly assignment due 11:59pm
Week 11		
Monday, March 17, 2025	Spring break	
Sunday, March 23, 2025		
Week 12		
Monday, March 24, 2025	Terry Chapter 12 Announce final project	
Sunday, March 30, 2025		Weekly assignment due 11:59pm
Week 13		
Monday, March 31, 2025	Homes & Holmes chapter 14	
Sunday, April 6, 2025		Weekly assignment due 11:59pm
Week 14		
Monday, April 7, 2025	Terry chapter 10	
Sunday, April 13, 2025		Weekly assignment due 11:59pm
Week 15		
Monday, April 14, 2025	Mancini chapter 12	
Sunday, April 20, 2025		Weekly assignment due 11:59pm Minute paper due 11:59pm

No Questions Asked Late Work Coupon

This coupon allows you to submit your weekly assignment 24 hours late, no questions asked. Please fill out your name and the assignment you used the coupon for and email it to me with your assignment. Limit one coupon per student a semester.

Used by: _____

Used for: _____

****Not valid for exams or final project**

Week 16		
Monday, April 21, 2025	Work on final project	
Sunday, April 27, 2025		Final project due 11:59pm
Finals week		
Monday, April 28, 2025		
Thursday May 1, 2025		Final exam due 11:59pm