

Bridgewater State College
Prof. Richard Wright
Spring 2006

MWF 3:20pm – 4:10pm
Hart Hall Room 114
email: Richard.Wright@bridgew.edu

Special Topics in Criminal Justice: Sex Crimes CRJU – 399
Course Syllabi

Dr. Richard G. Wright
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
Department of Criminal Justice
Hart Hall Room 247
Bridgewater State College
Bridgewater, MA 02325
Phone: 508-531-2678
Email: Richard.Wright@bridgew.edu

Office Hours – Spring 2006 Semester
MWF 10am – 11am, Fridays 1:30pm – 3pm & By Appointment

Course Description:

Various special topics of current interest in criminal justice will be offered from time to time. Topics will be announced before the registration. May be taken more than once but only three (3) credits will be counted toward the first 30 hours in the criminal justice major.

Throughout American history what behaviors become defined as sex crimes has constantly been influenced by social, political, ideological and legal factors. This course will examine sex crime laws and the parties impacted by it. The course will examine issues as varied as age of consent laws (e.g., statutory rape), anti-sodomy laws, prostitution laws, rape laws, date/acquaintance rape and marital exemptions, sex offender registration and notification. Students will learn and discuss how the concept of consent is related to sex crimes. The course will analyze issues related to victims and perpetrators of sexual assault. The course will also analyze the criminal justice system's response. The course will explore the role of advocacy groups and policymakers in the evolution of sex crime laws. Students will acquire an in-depth understanding of what sexual behaviors become defined as criminal, why and the laws' effects on sexual assault victims and offenders.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have the ability to:

- Explain key sex crime legislation including age of consent, rape & sex offender laws.
- Articulate an understanding of key issues associated with sexual assault victims and sex offenders.
- Discuss the dominant political & social factors in sex crime legislation.
- Articulate current and historical criminal justice responses to sex crimes.
- Critically analyze the role of legislators and advocacy groups in sex crime legislation.
- Discuss the efficacy of contemporary sex crime laws.

Required Text:

- Reddington, Frances & Betsy Wright-Kreisel. Sexual Assault: The Victims, the Perpetrators & The Criminal Justice System. Carolina Academic Press. 2004. ISBN 0-89089-334-9

Required Reading Packet (Contents Incl.)

Section 1 (Blackboard Only)

Sexual Assault Overview Section:

- Various news articles. (On Blackboard)
- Various federal statistical reports on sexual assault. (On Blackboard)

Section 2

Non-Violent Sex Crimes:

Prostitution Laws & Issues:

- "Violence and Legalized Brothel Prostitution in Nevada: Examining Safety, Risk and Prostitution Policy." Brents, Barbara & Hausbeck, K. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*: 20(3) 270-295. 2005. Sage Publications.

Age of Consent/Statutory Rape:

- "Turning Girls Into Women: Re-evaluating Modern Statutory Rape Law" Oberman, Michelle. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*: 85(1) 15-79. 1994. Northwestern University School of Law.

Anti-Sodomy Laws:

- "Legal, Moral & Social Reasons for Decriminalizing Sodomy." Fradella, Henry. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*: 18(3) August 2002 279-301. Sage Publications.
- "Lawrence, et. al vs. Texas." U.S. Supreme Court Decision Oct. 2002 Term. Decided June 26 2003.

Section 3

Sex Offenders & Sex Offender Laws:

- "House Bills on Sexual Crimes Against Children: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security of the Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives 109th Congress First Session on H.R. 764, H.R. 95, H.R. 1355, H.R. 1505, H.R. 2423, H.R. 244, H.R. 2796, H.R. 2797." June 9th 2005. Serial 109-30. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C.
- "Female sex offenders: An overview and analysis of 40 cases" Vandiver, Donna. *Criminal Justice Review*: 27(2) 2002.
- "The Impact of Sex Offender Residence Restrictions: 1,000 Feet from Danger or One Step from Absurd?" Levenson, Jill & Cotter, Leo. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*: 49(2), 2005 168-178. Sage Publications.
- "Spin Doctors and Moral Crusaders: The Moral Panic Behind Child Safety Legislation" Zgoba, K.M. *Criminal Justice Studies*: 17(4) 385-404, 2004. Routledge.

Optional (Recommended) Text:

- **The Criminal Justice Student Writer's Manual 3rd Edition**. Johnson, Rettig, et. al. Pearson/Prentice Hall 2005. ISBN #0-13-124506-6

Course Expectations & Information:

Students are expected to attend class regularly with course material read prior to class. Should a student need to miss a class, they are requested to email or call Prof. Wright, prior to the class to explain their absence. Students are expected to take the scheduled final exam and submit assignments on time, as penalties for lateness and missed exams are described below.

Students are *strongly recommended to continually ask questions and encourage debate*. To achieve a critical view of sex crime legislation, questions are essential. It is also recommended that as needed, students meet with Prof. Wright to ensure their comprehension of the course material, clarification of its' application to contemporary crime problems and/or assistance in the writing assignments.

Students MUST also register for this course's companion site on Blackboard. Students must use their *@bridgew.edu email address to register for the site. Students can enroll in the Blackboard site by going to www.blackboard.bridgew.edu and selecting either the course by number or the instructor's name. It is critical that students immediately enroll in Blackboard. Should students have difficulty enrolling, please call the IT support services at 508-531-2555 or itsupport@bridgew.edu. Course announcements, documents and information will be regularly posted on the Blackboard site.

Grading & Assignments:

I. EXAMS

This course consists of one exam, the final examination. The final exam may consist solely of essay questions and may be a take-home exam. Students may be given a choice of which questions to answer (e.g., three of four). The final exam will cover material in the textbook, the reading packet, class discussions and any additional materials provided in class. The final exam may also include the use of hypothetical cases requiring application of course material. It is expected that students fully prepare for the final examination.

No make-up exam will be given. In the event of an extreme emergency and a student misses the final exam, Prof. Wright MAY, at his discretion, assign the student an additional writing assignment. In this rare situation, students will be required to provide documentation of situation (e.g., hospital admitting record, death certificate).

II. WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

This course has two major writing assignments requiring critical thinking, research and a high level of writing. The "Legislative Position Paper" is a 5-7 page paper described below. The "Research Paper" described in section b, will be submitted twice, once as a draft and secondly as a substantive revision.

a. Legislative Position Paper.

A central theme in this course is to understand why sexual behaviors become criminalized or decriminalized. Students will be presented with five (5) different semi-fictional/hypothetical sex crime laws. Students will choose one (1) of the five (5) proposed laws and write a 5-7 page position paper on whether the law should be enacted. The five proposed laws will include the following topics:

1. The Legalization of Prostitution
2. Eliminating the statute of limitations in sexual assault cases.
3. Chemical/physical castration of sex offenders.
4. The repeal of rape shield laws.
5. "Two Strikes and you're out" laws for repeat sex offenders.

Legislative Position Paper Guidelines:

This position paper **must** include a discussion of the following:

1. Present opposing arguments about the bill. (Why would some people favor it? Why would others oppose the bill?)
2. Why is the bill controversial?
3. Who would benefit from the law? How?
4. Who would be harmed by the law? How?
5. What is your position? Do you support or oppose the law? Why?

Additional research is not required for this policy paper but is **recommended**. All policy papers must also conform to the guidelines mentioned below.

The second writing assignment is an original, academic research paper.

b. Research Paper

Students will choose a sex crime related topic of their own, conduct research and write an analytical, critical paper between eight and twelve (8-12) pages (citations not included). This research paper will allow students to investigate further an area of interest related to the course. The research paper consists of two different submissions, a thorough draft and an expanded revision.

1. Graded Draft

To ensure that students have grasped the purpose and scope of the research paper, students will submit a thorough draft of their paper. Drafts must be typed and formatted appropriately (see below). Written feedback will be provided to students on the draft research paper. The draft will be judged based on the research conducted, strength of argument and writing, how well the criteria (below) are addressed, and the logic and flow of the paper. The draft will be graded and is worth 20% of the course grade.

2. Revised Final Paper

In a revised final paper students will address the strengths, concerns and/or weaknesses of the draft paper as described in the feedback provided by Prof. Wright. Additionally, students will ensure that all formatting and citation problems are adequately addressed. The final revised paper will also expand upon areas not covered in the draft. The revised final paper is worth 20% of the course grade.

Research Paper Guidelines:

Students may choose their research paper from the following topics:

- Law enforcement responses to rape victims.
- Gay/lesbian sexual assault.
- Catholic Church and sexual abuse scandal.
- Other religions and sexual abuse.
- Sexual assaults and cults.
- Child sexual assault.
- Prison rape.
- Typologies of sex offenders.
- Juvenile sex offenders.
- Date or acquaintance rape.
- Rape, DNA testing and wrongful convictions.
- Elder and/or disabled victims of sexual assault.

The research paper must also answer the following questions:

1. What is the scope/scale of the problem or issue? (e.g., statistics on child sexual assault, date or acquaintance rape, juvenile sex offenders, etc.)
2. What are some historical issues or contexts associated with this problem?
3. What are the current issues/controversies associated with this problem?

4. How effectively is the criminal justice system addressing the problem?
5. What do you suggest should be done to address the problem?

This research paper MUST have a minimum of seven (7) sources, at least two (2) of which must be an academic journal. Please contact a reference librarian for the list of criminal justice journals the library owns or has access to. Students are encouraged to use Interlibrary Loan (ILL) to obtain articles not owned by the library. Instructions on using ILL can be found at

<http://www.bridgew.edu/Library/dds2.cfm>

- See the additional guidelines for a discussion of acceptable and unacceptable sources. Students MUST use the American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines in all writing assignments. Students should utilize **The Criminal Justice Student Writer's Manual 3rd Edition** for help in writing, revising and citing their papers.

Additional Paper Guidelines

1. LATE PAPERS

If a student submits any paper late, the student will receive a penalty on that paper. **For each class session the paper is late, the paper will be lowered by one full grade. In extreme exceptions, the professor may grant an extension. This will only be done in extraordinary circumstances and will require documentation from the student as to the reason for the extension.**

2. PLAGIARISM:

The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate an awareness of sex crimes and analyze them with a critical view. This is an individual, original research paper and plagiarism will **NOT** be tolerated.

Plagiarism, or the misappropriation and/or misattribution of another person's work to one's individual efforts are severely discouraged. Plagiarism, one form of academic misconduct, may result in a failure for the course in which the violation took place. A record of the violation is kept and may result in suspension or dismissal from the college. Students should refer to the BSC student handbook or (<http://www.bridgew.edu/Handbook/PoliciesProcedures/academicmisconduct.cfm>) for questions regarding academic misconduct penalties and procedures.

Forms of plagiarism include but are not limited to utilizing ANY online paper writing/delivering service, "cutting and pasting" text from other works, uncited sources, having another individual write all or portions of a student's paper, and/or altering other published material. When in doubt, students should appropriately cite a work, consult with library staff and Prof. Wright.

- Appropriate sources include governmental websites, academic journal articles, books, and interviews with criminal justice personnel and select newspapers or magazines.
- Select online sources are acceptable. Acceptable websites include university or government based research sites (*.gov or *.edu) and national criminal justice sites (ncjrs.org, etc.) Reputable newspapers are acceptable. ***Students are discouraged from using advocacy websites or blogs.*** If a student is in question about the acceptability of any source, contact the professor. As with all sources, all online information used, must be appropriately cited.
- Research papers must adhere to the American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines for in-text citations and the bibliography. See the BSC library for guidance on APA formatting. <http://www.bridgew.edu/Library/styleman.cfm>
- The research papers must be typed and formatted with an 11 or 12 point font, 1" margins, stapled, double-spaced with appropriate page numbers.

- To ensure that students do not plagiarize material, all papers will be submitted to www.turnitin.com. Turnitin.com is an anti-plagiarism service the college subscribes to. When writing assignments are due, students will hand in a paper copy AND will upload, via Blackboard, an electronic copy of their paper. Papers will receive a “plagiarism” score identifying what and how much of a paper was plagiarized.

III. PARTICIPATION –

In order to understand the criminal justice system and to develop a critical view of its operation, students are required to participate in class discussions. Students must stay current with the course readings and be prepared to offer their own observations and questions.

IV. EXTRA CREDIT –

Throughout the semester, Prof. Wright MAY offer one or more extra credit writing assignments. If offered, Prof. Wright will provide a written handout explaining the assignment, due date, guidelines and its potential worth.

V. GRADING –

Students' grades are comprised of the following:

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|---|--------------|
| ➤ Attendance, Participation & Preparedness | - 10% |
| ➤ Legislative Position Paper | - 20% |
| ➤ Research paper (Draft) | - 20% |
| ➤ Research paper (Revised Final) | - 20% |
| ➤ Final examination | - 30% |

Course Outline, Assignments & Due Dates

The following is a schedule of reading and written assignments and their corresponding due dates. Pay close attention to the dates that written assignments are due. Changes to this schedule may occur throughout the semester. Please check with Prof. Wright (and on Blackboard) for any in-class modifications to the schedule.

Date	Assignment
Week 1	Introductions, Review of Syllabi, Course Goals Section 1: Reading Pack – (Blackboard Only) Overview of Sexual Assault: Media Coverage & Scientific Studies
Week 2	Chapter 1 & 2 – Reddington & Kreisel
Week 3, 4	Section 1: Reading Packet – Non-Violent Sex Crimes: - “Violence and Legalized Brothel Prostitution in Nevada: Examining Safety, Risk and Prostitution Policy.” - “Turning Girls Into Women: Re-evaluating Modern Statutory Rape Law” - “Legal, Moral & Social Reasons for Decriminalizing Sodomy.” - “Lawrence, et. al vs. Texas.”
Week 5 (FRI. FEB. 17 TH)	LEGISLATIVE POSITION PAPER DUE! (HAND IN HARD COPY – UPLOAD ELECTRONIC COPY)
Week 5 – 7	Chapter 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 – Reddington & Kreisel
Week 7 (FRI. MARCH 3 RD)	DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE! (HAND IN HARD COPY – UPLOAD ELECTRONIC COPY) DRAFTS WILL BE RETURNED W/ FEEDBACK ON MON. 3/20
Week 8 & 9	Spring Break – No Classes (Monday 3/6 through Friday 3/17)
Week 10 & 11	Chapters 8 -13 Reddington & Kreisel
Week 12 - 14	Section 3: Reading Packet: Sex Offenders and Sex Offender Laws - “House Bills on Sexual Crimes Against Children: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security of the Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives 109 th Congress First Session on H.R. 764, H.R. 95, H.R. 1355, H.R. 1505, H.R. 2423, H.R. 244, H.R. 2796, H.R. 2797.” - “Female sex offenders: An overview and analysis of 40 cases” - “The Impact of Sex Offender Residence Restrictions: 1,000 Feet from Danger or One Step from Absurd?” - “Spin Doctors and Moral Crusaders: The Moral Panic Behind Child Safety Legislation”
Week 15 (FRI. APRIL 28 TH)	REVISED RESEARCH PAPER DUE! HAND IN HARD COPY – UPLOAD ELECTRONIC COPY
Week 15-16	Chapters 14 – 18 Reddington & Kreisel
Week 17	FINAL EXAM – TBA

Please note that there are NO CLASSES on
Monday Feb. 20th (President’s Day) & Monday April 17th (Patriots Day)!
As per college policy, Classes on Monday Feb. 20th will be held on Tuesday Feb. 21st.