

CJ – 364 Special Offenders & Special Needs

Fall 2007

Professor: Rissie Owens

Revised 8/28/07

Office: CL-17

Phone: 294-3635 or 662-5931

Email: RAO003@shsu.edu HOLD

Office Hours: Wed, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Class Hours: Wednesday Evening/6:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m., Room A115

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 “unusual” offenders, or rather 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 mass and serial killers, sex offenders, mentally disordered offenders, and juvenile offenders with mental illness. Offenders with special needs may also include female offenders, suicidal offenders, and violent offenders. This course employs a mental health perspective in addressing each of the special offender classifications and the special needs associated with these offenders.

Course Goals and Objectives:

The student will learn about a variety of special offenders and the complexity of special needs associated with these offenders. Students will learn mental health perspectives regarding these offenders and their special needs. Students will develop a basic understanding of mental disorder, especially those disorders prevalent in the criminal justice system. Students will learn about past and current laws/statutes in regards to the treatment of these special offenders (i.e., current case law about mentally retarded offenders and the death penalty). Students will become better informed as practitioners when dealing with the vast array of offenders encountered within their field. Some of the objectives for this course include the following:

1. Understand historical, rights, standards of addressing special needs populations in the criminal justice system;
2. Understand the types of special offenders and their characteristics;
3. Learn treatment strategies associated with special offenders;
4. Analyze and critique planning decisions and aftercare programs with special needs populations;
5. Understand administrative issues and considerations for special offenders and special needs in the criminal justice system.

Attendance Policy:

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. It is expected that students attend class and be prepared to discuss the scheduled topic. In accordance with University guidelines, attendance will be taken at every class session. Please note that class

participation is a portion of your grade and more than one unexcused absence will affect your grade. In order to receive additional points you must not have missed more than **one** unexcused absence. Absence will be excused at discretion of the instructor.

Grading Policy and Course Requirements:

Your final grade will be based on a point system (breakdown below). Letter grade will be assigned to the appropriate percentage:

Test 1	25%	A= 90-100
Test 2	25%	B= 80-89
Test 3	25%	C= 70-79
Current Events Papers	25%	D= 60-69

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. **PLEASE BRING A SCANTRON WITH YOU TO THE EXAMS.**

Make-up Exams:

Make-up exams will be administered only for students in extreme cases who must be absent from class on exam dates, and **with prior approval from the professor.**

Current Event Papers:

Current Event Papers will be one page in length and will be due on (9/12, 10/17, 11/14, 12/5). These papers should pertain to “special needs offenders in the criminal justice 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 your synopsis. Please do not exceed one page. Current Event Papers will be 25% of the grade (100 pts or 25 points each). Failure to submit an assignment on the designated dates will result in a 10-point reduction from your Current Events grade.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

Students can receive extra credit for attending the following tours. Each one will count for 5 points toward any one exam for a possible total of 10 points.

#1 – Tour of Estelle Unit

#2 – Texas Prison Museum (at your leisure, bring your receipt)

Class Participation:

As noted above, class participation is essential to the learning process and facilitates class discussions. Although attendance in class is important, it is also necessary to be an active participant in learning. The instructor may place students into groups and facilitate discussions on a variety of topic areas that relate to corrections. Students are expected to contribute. It is expected that students conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of others. The instructor will not tolerate disrespect of others.

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>

Visitors in the Classroom:

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class.

Cellular Phones and Pagers:

Both cellular phones and pagers must be turned OFF during class. If your job requires you to be on-call during class time, please see instructor for approval.

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 criminal justice system.

Class Schedule

Aug. 22	Intro to the course / Review syllabus	
Aug. 29	History and defining special needs offender.	Ch. 1
Sept. 5	Risk assessment, diagrams, recidivism prediction and classification of offenders	Ch. 2
Sept. 12	Substance abusers: Substance abuse programs	Ch. 3
Sept. 19	Offenders with communicable diseases (Guest speaker) Exam review	Ch. 4
Sept. 26	Exam 1	
Oct. 3	Mentally disordered offenders Mentally retarded and learning-disabled offenders	Ch.5 Ch. 6
Oct. 10	Early childhood offenders – The child and adolescent offender	Ch. 7
Oct. 17	Gang members as special needs offenders (guest speaker)	Ch. 9
Oct. 24	Juvenile sex offenders as special needs offenders Adult sex offenders Exam Review	Ch. 10 Ch. 11
Nov. 7	Exam 2	
Nov. 14	Domestic Batterers as Special Needs Offenders Female Offenders	Ch.12 Ch.13
Nov. 21	Holiday	
Nov. 28	Geriatric offenders	Ch. 14
Dec. 5	Restorative justice and special needs offenders Predictions and suggestions for the future processing of special needs offenders / FINAL EXAM REVIEW	Ch. 16
Dec. 12	Final Exam, 8-10 p.m.	