

Course: JUST 402 - Sex Crimes
Offered at Montclair State University, Department of Justice Studies
by Lisa Anne Zilney, Ph.D.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary goals of this course are to cultivate a criminological, psychological, and legal understanding of sex crimes and sexual offending. We begin with an examination of the history of sexual offending and a look at the theoretical explanations. We spend a considerable amount of time discussing high profile sexual offense cases and the impact of these cases on the creation of a moral panic and a multitude of “get tough” responses by the legislature. We also discuss “so-called” sexual offenses such as public sex, sodomy, swinging, etc. We examine how sexual offenders are controlled in society: As we examine legal controls such as Megan’s Law and Sexually Violent Predator legislation, this will involve an investigation into the dilemma of balancing the rights of the offenders and the rights of the community, and what types of community protection are available for sex offenders. We explore issues such as the possible collateral consequences of community notification and registration on both offenders and their families and delve into how restorative justice may assist sexual offenders and victims. This involves a discussion of changes in future legislation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- (1) Understand psychological, sociological, and criminological aspects of sexual offending.
- (2) Understand the impact of high-profile cases in creating a moral panic surrounding sexual offending which has resulted in “get tough” legislation that does not reduce recidivism or increase public safety.
- (3) Elaborate the collateral consequences of sex offense legislation on those who are convicted or plea to a sex offense, as well as their family.
- (4) Understand how the application of restorative justice may bring positive change to both offenders and victims of sexual offenses.
- (5) Write clearly focused discussions/essays marked by intellectual engagement and critical reflection.

REQUIRED READINGS TO PURCHASE

FAIR WARNING: Your professor has authored or coauthored both texts that are required! That does NOT mean that you need to agree with the perspective of the texts to earn a good grade in this course. Additionally, as per MSU Rules of Ethics, all proceeds from the sale of these texts will be donated to charity.

If you’re interested, my author facebook page posts daily interesting social justice/sex crime related articles posted. https://www.facebook.com/lisazilney/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Russell, Kate Elizabeth. (2020). *My dark Vanessa: A novel*. New York, NY: Harper Collins.

Zilney, Lisa Anne. (2020). *Impacts of sex crime laws on the female partners of convicted offenders: Never free of collateral consequences*. New York, NY: Routledge Press.

Zilney, Lisa Anne, & Zilney, Laura J. (2013). *Reconsidering sex crimes and offenders: Prosecution or persecution?* Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.

RESOURCES USED THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER:

Zilney, Lisa Anne. (2020, July 5). Critical teaching in a sex crimes course. *Medium*.
<https://medium.com/@zilney/critical-teaching-in-a-sex-crimes-course-efc8b64a4155>

Lisa Ling: Sex Offenders (23 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzwGVUt-qhQ&t=22s>

Thomas, Chandra R. (2006, January). Why is Genarlow Wilson in prison? *Atlanta*, 64-69, 144-148.

Goodman, Brenda. (2007, October 26). Georgia Supreme Court frees man in sex case. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/26/us/26cnd-georgia.html>

Where Is Genarlow Wilson Now? (2 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GF-cawU3Jwk>

Seto, Michael C., Reeves, Lesley, & Jung, Sandy. (2010). Explanations given by child pornography offenders for their crimes. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 16(2), 169-180.

A Child Sex Offender Tells All: Part 1 (19 mins) -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCUhbxsyYKY&frags=pl%2Cwn>

A Child Sex Offender Tells All: Part 2 (17 mins) -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLgHEgMUM4c>

A Child Sex Offender Tells All: Part 3 (34 mins) -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltM9hWYc6-k>

Cole, Simon A. (2000). From the sexual psychopath statute to 'Megan's Law': Psychiatric knowledge in the diagnosis, treatment, and adjudication of sex criminals in New Jersey, 1949–1999. *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 55(3), 292–314.

Wylie, Mary Sykes. (1998, November/December). Secret lives. *Networker*, 39-59.

Bergner, Daniel. (2005, January 23). The making of a molester. *New York Times*.

Exposing Jeffery Epstein (45 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQOOxOI9l80>

The Arrest of Ghislaine Maxwell (27 mins) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-9hO4wF_xw

Ackerman, Alissa R., Harris, Andres J., Levenson, Jill S., & Zgoba, Kristen. (2011). Who are the people in your neighborhood? A descriptive analysis of individuals on public sex offender registries. *International Journal of Law & Psychiatry*, 34, 149-159.

Lave, Tamara Rice. (2011). Inevitable recidivism - The origin and centrality of an urban legend. *International Journal of Law & Psychiatry*, 34, 186-194.

DiBennardo, Rebecca A. (2018). Ideal victims and monstrous offenders: How the news media represent sexual predators. *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, 4, 1-20.

Cucolo, Heather Ellis, & Perlin, Michael L. (2013). "They're planting stories in the press: The impact of media distortions on sex offender law and policy" (2013). *Digital Commons*, 185-246.

No Author. (2018). Summary of state and territorial registration laws concerning visiting and temporary residence by adults.

The Unconstitutionality of Sex Offense Laws: Lecture (46 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-ct5YLdRUK>

Zilney, Lisa Anne. (2020, June 11). Will sex offense registry changes be part of criminal justice reform? *Medium*.
<https://medium.com/@zilneyl/will-sex-offense-registry-changes-be-part-of-criminal-justice-reform-6c3c897c367a>

Should we Abolish the Sex Offender Registry: Debate (75 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SI7-GcvLGk>

Pervert Park (21 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiquubYVbWQ>

Jones, Maggie. (2007, July 22). How can you distinguish a budding pedophile from a kid with real boundary problems? *The New York Times*.

Stillman, Sarah. (2016, March 14). The list: When juveniles are found guilty of sexual misconduct, the sex offender registry can be a life sentence. *New Yorker Magazine*.

Sex Offender at 19 – Statutory Offense (11 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yP4T3wPJWoM>

Steibel, Warren. (1997). Should states be allowed to confine sex offenders to mental hospitals after they've served their criminal sentences? *Debates Debates Show #213*.

Robbers, Monica L. (2008). Lifers on the outside: Sex offenders and disintegrative shaming. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 53(1), 5-28.

Lieb, Roxanne, Kernshall, Hazel, & Thomas, Terry. (2011). Post-release controls for sex offenders in the U.S. and UK. *International Journal of Law & Psychiatry*, 34, 226-232.

My Husband is an Ex-Offender (6 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJk1Zb6N7-U>

My Fiance is a Registrant (6 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NT2LE3WZih4>

My Dad is a Registrant (3 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IZy-DiDQfo>

My Son is an Ex-Offender (3 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sbjCHypAp4>

McWhinnie, Andrew, & Wilson, Robin J. (2005). Courageous communities: Circles of support and accountability with individuals who have committed sexual offenses. *EForum*.

The Story of a Child Sex Offender: Part 1 (role of treatment) (70 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZwoFagWSUc>

Hoyal, Maggie. (1991). These are the things I remember. In Ellen Bass (Ed.), *I never told anyone: Writings by women survivors of child sexual abuse* (pp. 119-128). New York, NY: Harper Collins.

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault. (n/d). Behaviors of sexual predators: Grooming. *Factsheet*.

Media Tips for Activist Groups. <https://www.eff.org/electronic-frontier-alliance/media-tips>