

SYLLABUS

CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN **CRJU 4283-101** **Spring 2026**

Course Time and Place: Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00 A.M.-12:20 P.M.; Martin Hall 108

Course Instructor: Prof. Ted Paddock, Martin 112, (940) 397-4090
ted.paddock@msutexas.edu

Required Textbooks: Klika, J. Bart and J.R. Conte (Ed.), *The APSAC Handbook on Child Maltreatment* (4th Ed.), Sage Publications, ISBN 978-1-5063-4170-5 (2018)

Supplemental Textbooks: (Student Option) Besharov, Douglas J. *Recognizing Child Abuse: A Guide for the Concerned*. The Free Press/Simon and Schuster, ISBN 0-02-9030820 (1990)
Texas Crime and Traffic Law Manual (2019-2020 Ed.). Blue360media Publ., ISBN 978-1-6413-0421-4

Course Description: This course is designed to acquaint the student with the differing aspects of crimes that are committed either against children, or crimes involving children. Among the topics discussed are physical abuse, sexual offenses, psychological manipulation of children, the legal aspects of dealing with crimes involving youth, family violence, school violence, and some of the actions society and professionals can use to prevent a higher incidence of these acts perpetrated against children.

Instructor Perspective: Workload in this course will be moderate. Material may be new to the student. Some concepts presented may be controversial. Do to the nature of the course, *some material may be personally offensive or very emotionally sensitive*. A career in the field of criminal justice or a closely related area requires exposure to this information.

Today's society has liberalized acceptance of substance abuse, electronic games of violence, and free social media access to children of both adult and illegal sexualized content. Much of the material utilized in this course is developed from a social treatment and/or a child protective services perspective, adapted to meet the needs of criminal justice students entering the field. This course aids the student in a greater understanding of the nature of criminal behaviors involving children, birth to eighteen years.

Communication: Each student enrolled in CRJU 4283-201 must have a valid functional email address and phone number at the beginning of and throughout this course. D2L will not be used. Supplemental Instructor Class Materials (by Instructor) and Student Work Submissions (by Student) will be done via email pdf Attachment.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
Spring 2025

1/20/26	Housekeeping/Syllabus
1/22/26	“Video – “Listening To Children” – Robert Coles
1/27/26	Statistical Facts Regarding Crimes Committed Against a Child
1/29/26	1) History of Development of Crimes Against Children 2) Read Chapter 1 (APSAC, p. 1-11); <u>Submit Abstract #1</u>
2/3/26	1) Theories of Violence (Instructor Material) 2) Read Chapter 2 (APSAC, p. 14-31); <u>Submit Abstract #2</u>
2/5/26	1) Theories of Violence (cont.) 2) Read Chapter 3 (APSAC, p. 34-43); <u>Submit Abstract #3</u>
2/10-12/26	Legal Update – Texas Criminal Statutes 1) U.S. Constitutional Issues and National Response Involving Children 2) Read Chapter 12 (APSAC, p. 182-198); <u>Submit Abstract #4</u>
2/17/26	Guest Speaker - Child Protective Services – Camille Schmader - Investigations
2/19/26	1) Guest Speaker – Prosecutor (Criminal District Atty.) 2) Read Addendum #1 to Syllabus – “ <i>Criminal Prosecution of Child Maltreatment</i> ” by John E.B. Myers; <u>Submit Abstract #5</u>
2/24/26	Exam #1 (<i>Covers class material from January 20 through February 19. Includes abstract readings material from Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 12 of APSAC text, as well as Addendum #1 to Syllabus; material from Videos; Instructor material; and, Guest Speakers materials</i>)
2/26/26	Guest Speaker – Catherine Earley, Chair, MSU Social Work Department - Foster Care
3/3/26	1) Guest Speaker -Denise Roberts – Executive Director, Patsy’s House, and Off. Mike Jones - Crimes Against Children Unit, Wichita Falls Police Dept. 2) Read Chapter 23 (APSAC, p. 385-400) <u>Submit Abstract #6</u>
3/5/26	1) Guest Speaker – James Bodling, Director of CASA of Red River (Child Advocates) 2) Read Chapter 7 (APSAC, p. 95-107); <u>Submit Abstract #7</u>
3/10-12/26	Spring Break
3/17/26	Guest Speaker – School Role in Crimes Against Children – WFISD Speaker
3/19/26	ACES Research (Adverse Childhood Experiences Study and Resiliency Scales)
3/24-26/26	Guest Speaker – Beth Maywald – Early Childhood Specialist (ACES/Brain Development)

Schedule of Classes (cont.) Page 3

3/31/26	1) Confirming Suspicion of a Child Crime 2) Physical and Sexual Maltreatment Crimes Against a Child 3) Read Chapter 8 (APSAC, p. 111-121); <u>Submit Abstract #8</u>
4/2/26	Holiday Break
4/7/26	EXAM #2 (<i>Covers class material from February 26 through March 31. Includes Abstract Readings from Chapters 7, 8 and 23 of the textbook;; videos; Instructor Materials; and Guest Speakers materials</i>)
4/9/26	1) Video – “Kids and Bullying” 2) Instructor Material – Bullying (Davis)
4/14/26	1) Physical Neglect and Endangerment 2) Read Chapter 9 (APSAC, p. 127-140); <u>Submit Abstract #10</u>
4/16/26	1) Guest Speaker -Greg Stanford (Media Minister/Children - 10 th and Broad) 2) Read Addendum #2 to Syllabus - <i>”Protecting Children in Cyberspace”</i> OJJDP <u>Submit Abstract #9</u>
4/21/26	1) Psychological/Emotional Maltreatment 2) Read Chapter 10 (APSAC, p. 145-158); <u>Submit Abstract #11</u>
4/23/26	1) Perpetrators with Mental Disabilities 2) Interviewing Suspected Perpetrators
4/28/26	Guest Speaker – Director, Children’s Aid Society of West Texas/ (Children’s Home and Teen Shelter)
4/30/26	Visit to Wichita County Juvenile Justice Facility (dependent upon availability)
5/5/26	Video – “Inside Chicago’s Gang War”
5/7/26	EXAM #3 (<i>Covers material from April 9 through May 5. Includes material from Chapters 9 and 10 of APSAC text; Instructor material; Addendum #2 ”Protecting Children in Cyberspace” Guest Speaker materials; videos; field visit; and any terminology used in this course relating to Crimes Against Children</i>)

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have a documented disability, or are requiring special needs to be addressed in this course, contact Ted Paddock, Martin 112, 397-4090 at the beginning of the semester. Should you wish to take your exams outside the classroom, you must contact the Office of Disability Support Services, Room 168, Clark Student Center, 397-4140 to arrange accommodations.

EXTRA CREDIT

No work for extra credit will be accepted, unless extreme circumstances were unforeseen and unpreventable.

PLAGARISM STATEMENT

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU the “limited right” in all intellectual property created by the student in this course, including verifying the authenticity and originality of the student’s work products.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES *No use of electronic devices is allowed in the classroom during the class period, without express consent of the instructor. Should the student desire to take notes on his/her laptop, Instructor may observe contents during that class period to assure notes from that day.*

GRADE SHEET

10% **ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION**

Two (2) unexcused absences are allowed during the semester without loss of points; minus two (-2) points deducted from final semester grade for each subsequent unexcused absence. Should the student wish for an *absence to be excused*, a request must be made in writing stating the reason for the absence. Participation includes activity in class exercises, no disruption in class, and being prepared to discuss assigned chapters

10% **INTERVIEW WITH A 1) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, or 2) LEGAL SYSTEM PRACTITIONER, or 3) CPS PROFESSIONAL or 4) MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER [due April 14]**

Student should speak with a person who regularly deals with crimes against children. In written computer-generated report form (no handwritten), student should identify:

- 1) the name of the person interviewed;
- 2) the professional title of the person;
- 3) the regular daily routine of the person [job description];
- 4) how the person deals directly on their job with a crime against a child; and,
- 5) what the person's prognosis for the future is in terms of how society can better deal with crimes against children.

15% **CHAPTER ABSTRACTS [due as assigned; no late submission over 7 days (reduced credit)]**
Summarize chapter readings in the following format:

- A) the title and author of the assigned article;
- B) the prevailing theme of the assigned reading;
- C) the main points that the author relies upon to support his thesis;
- D) your thoughts/evaluation regarding the issues dealt with in the article, and why you believe as you do.

20% **RESEARCH PAPER [due April 23]**

Requirements include 1) Cover Sheet, 2) Abstract, 3) four to eight pages of narrative, 4) 6+ Sources Cited including at least three since 2016; 5) APA style, 6) double spaced, computer generated. Any quotes from internet sources must cite the *original source* of the information. The paper should deal with the issues discussed in this course (i.e., at-risk children who are subject to having crimes committed against them, a specific type of a crime against a child, and/or the profile of the perpetrators of those criminal acts). See attached approved topics.

15% **EXAM #1** [February 24]

15% **EXAM #2** [April 7]

15% **EXAM #3** [May 7]

STUDENT HONOR CODE:

As an MSU student. I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so”
Any violation of the MSU Student Honor Code may result in failure of this class.

ADDENDUM #1

“Criminal Prosecution of Child Maltreatment”
by John E.B. Myers

(Required reading article for February 19, 2026)

ADDENDUM #2

“Protecting Children In Cyberspace”
by Micheal Medaris and Cathy Girouard (OJJDP)

(Required Reading article for April 16, 2026)