



The University of Georgia

College of Education

Department of Counseling and Human Development Services

Recreation and Leisure Studies Program

**RLST 4000/6000 – Special Topics in Recreation and Leisure Studies  
Crime and Deviance in Leisure  
Spring 2009**

<b>Instructors:</b>	Corey Johnson	Laurel Richmond
<b>Office:</b>	347 Ramsey	334 Ramsey
<b>Office Phone:</b>	706-542-4335	706-542-4311
<b>Email:</b>	cwjohns@uga.edu	laurelr@uga.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mon. and Wed. 10am – 11am Tues. and Thurs. 11am – 12pm	Wed. 11:30am – 2pm Thurs. 2pm – 3:30pm

**Class Meeting Times & Locations**

Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:45pm      Ramsey room 225

**WebCT course address:**

<https://webct.uga.edu> (log in with UGA myID & password). Students should check the course site for important information and to print student handouts. Also, official university correspondence is conducted using your UGA email address and we expect you to check that email at least a couple times a week Monday – Friday.

**Description as found in UGA Bulletin:**

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this upper-division course is to explore the complex relationship of crime and deviance to leisure. The enforcement of laws and the norms and values placed on people's actions tell us much about the complex construction of power wielded in society. In this course students will explore the "dark side" of leisure and the implications for policies, human development and cultural traditions. Topics will include those such as underage drinking and the legal limits of sobriety; lotteries, fantasy football, Native American Casinos and church bingo; the increasing popularity of tattoos versus gang affiliated marking in prison; and much more.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Understand leisure as a culture phenomenon with socially constructed meanings;
2. Explore the evolution of activities from leisure to deviance to crime;
3. Discuss how power is wielded through labeling of activities as criminal or deviant;

**Prerequisites:** Permission of the major.

**Required Text:**

There is no textbook for this course. Readings are posted to Webct.

**Course Expectations:**

1. Student participation is critical for the success of this class. Therefore, it is expected that the student will come to class prepared by having read the assigned materials and **being able to discuss the material in an intellectual and critical manner**. It is unfair to your peers and the instructor to expect that all learning will occur during the designated course meetings or that the instructor will be able to address all the student issues given the wide range of interest areas represented in the class. Also, note that the instructors' training does not include knowledge of all areas of inquiry. Therefore it is critical for students to ask questions when examples are not understood and for us to search out alternative perspectives.
2. It is expected that you will be in your seats and prepared to participate in class activities at the beginning of the course period. Not only does tardiness disrupt the learning environment, it exhibits disrespect for your peers and the instructor. If you have a legitimate reason to be tardy, please inform the instructor.
3. If you do miss a class meeting, you are responsible for its content. Consult your syllabus, WebCT, and/or your classmates (not the instructor) regarding the content missed.
4. Written assignments are to be turned-in at the beginning of the class period on the day they are due. Ten percent will be deducted for every 24-hour period that an assignment is late. **No assignment will be accepted later than 72 hours past its due date.**
5. All written work should conform to the Recreation and Leisure Studies Program's Standards for Written Work, which is posted on WebCT, and the American Psychological Association's Publication Manual (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.). The correct format for resumes and cover letters is also covered in the required text.

**Performance Evaluation:**

A student's grade in this course will be calculated from the following assignments. Please note the grading scale and the use of the plus/minus grading system. Assignment sheets will be provided for each assignment and discussed in class.

*Attendance:*

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class meeting. Points are assigned if you are present, on time. There are no excused or unexcused absences; however each student may only earn a maximum of 25 points. This leaves room for a few missed class meeting without penalty. However, please let the instructor know if you are planning on missing a class.

*Participation:*

Part of your grade is determined through course participation. Active participation is essential to your learning and contributes to the learning of others. Participation will be evaluated in the following way:

Excellent: Proactive participation through leading, originating, informing, as well as asking questions that are thought provoking and indicate that you have read the material and reflected upon the readings and discussions. Participation does not mean dominating the discussion, making comments merely to make comments, or taking up class time with personal issues or tangential items. [50-45 points]

Satisfactory: Reactive participation with supportive, follow-up contributions that are relevant and of value, but rely on the leadership and study of others. Active participation in group activities. [44-40 points]

Minimally Acceptable: Passive participation including being present, awake, alert, attentive, but not actively involved. I call it the “seat warmer.” While you may be learning, you are not contributing to other’s learning nor are you assisting in producing discussions that engage others in learning. [39-35 points]

Unsatisfactory: Uninvolved including being absent, late, leaving early, present but not attentive, sleeping, asking questions that clearly indicate you have not kept up with the readings or class discussions, and making irrelevant contributions that inhibit the progress of the discussion. [34-0 points]

*Discussion Leaders:*

In groups of two, each student is responsible for leading the class discussion once over the course of the semester. This requires that the student become familiar with the course readings assigned for that class meeting and prepare discussion questions to encourage conversation on the topic of the day in a creative format of your choosing. Students will sign up for their day during the first week of the semester. This format is modeled throughout the semester and students are required to meet with the instructor to discuss their plan for leading the discussion.

*Response Papers:*

A response paper is a short paper that documents your response to an assigned class reading of your choice. Three papers worth 25 points each are due over the course of the semester. These papers should briefly summarize the reading, incorporate course material outside of your chosen reading, and reflect your critical evaluation of the reading as it applies to the course material.

*Special Project:*

The special project consists of an essay and presentation on a topic of your choice, as approved by the instructor. It is expected that the student investigates their topic in-depth. Creativity and unique formats are encouraged for both the presentation and paper. This project includes a proposal, an annotated bibliography, first, and final drafts of the paper and a presentation.

*RLST 6000 Discussion Leaders:*

Individually, each student enrolled in RLST 6000 is responsible for choosing a topic, planning readings, preparing and guiding class discussion, and composing a paper on their chosen topic. Students are required to meet with the instructor to discuss their plan for leading the discussion.

*RLST 6000 Project:*

In addition to the above assignments, graduate students enrolled in RLST 6000 are responsible for a community activity. This activity incorporates knowledge learned in this class and is designed to enhance awareness of how deviance and crime are treated by society.

*Additional Readings RLST 6000:*

Students enrolled in RLST 6000 are also assigned additional readings.

<b>Assignments:</b>	<b>Points</b>
Attendance	25
Participation	50
Discussion Leader (RLST 4000)	50
Response Papers (25 points each)	75
Special Project	
Project Proposal	25
Annotated Bibliography	50
First Draft of Paper	50
Final Draft of Paper	100
Presentation	50
RLST 6000 Project	100
Discussion Leader (RLST 6000)	
Topic Presentation	100
Paper	100

### **Grading Scale**

A = 93-100	A- = 90-92	
B+ = 88-89	B = 83-87	B- = 80-82
C+ = 78-79	C = 70.5-77	C- = 70-70.49
D = 60-69	F = 59 or below	

### **Departmental and Course Policies**

#### **Appropriate Classroom Behavior:**

1. This class will be taught using a discussion based, seminar format. To create an environment in which learning (yours and mine) is possible, we must be well-prepared for class, challenge each other to think critically, express ourselves effectively, experiment with new ideas, respect and listen to everyone's ideas, and correct misunderstandings, mistakes and errors in a positive and encouraging manner. We can create a challenging learning environment while having fun if we all do our part. You are adults and I expect you to behave as such in this classroom. The free and open exchange of ideas can only be possible when we respect one another. Therefore a diversity of opinions, including disagreements, will be tolerated so long as those opinions do not threaten the physical or emotional safety of classmates or guests.
2. The use of cell phones, pagers, and other disruptive devices will not be tolerated under any circumstances. If any of these devices are used or go off during class, the student responsible for the device will write a 2-3 page essay commenting on the impact of cellular/digital technology on the recreation and leisure experience. The paper is due exactly one-week from the incident. Failure to complete the paper in the timeframe will result in 5 % being deducted from your overall grade in this course. Please do not put me in a position of enforcing this policy; turn off devices before coming to class or leave them at home or in your car.
3. Please do not hand in work that has not been proof read or reviewed by a colleague. Also, it is not appropriate to simply hand in work from a previous class, a class taken concurrently with this one, or work from an existing project. However, if you meet with me and discuss any conflicts before hand, and

can obtain written permission from the professor whom the work was originally submitted, I am willing to consider substantial work in progress that may be useful in completing the current class's requirements. It is my goal to have our course assignments parallel your educational goals and needs.

4. It is recommended that a student keep all graded material until a final grade appears on her/his transcript. Graded materials may be necessary to settle discrepancies regarding the final grade of the course.

### **Incompletes and Withdraws:**

No incomplete will be given unless arrangements have been made with the instructor at least 14 days prior to the last scheduled class meeting. If you have exceptional circumstances during the last two weeks that require you to withdraw from the course, please seek the appropriate assistance from Academic Affairs: [www.uga.edu/studentaffairs/students/withdrawals.shtml](http://www.uga.edu/studentaffairs/students/withdrawals.shtml).

Any student wishing to withdraw from the class at any time during the semester should consult with an advisor of the Recreation and Leisure Studies faculty as not to impede timely graduation.

### **Accommodation Needs:**

I am committed to providing access to all persons with disabilities and will provide accommodation if notified. If you have a documented disability or any other special needs and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact us as soon as possible. Necessary academic accommodations will be made for you based on the recommendations received from Disability Services. You must be registered with Disability Services to receive academic accommodations. Please visit <http://www.dissvcs.uga.edu> or call 706-542-8719 to learn more.

### **Academic Integrity:**

“All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense” (A Culture of Honesty). All academic work must meet the standards contained in *A Culture of Honesty*. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at:

[www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm). Violations include: cheating (use of any dishonest, deceptive or fraudulent means, unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work; plagiarism (using the ideas or work of another without giving credit to the source); copying the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and adopting those as one's original work; falsification, statement of untruth, either spoken or written, regarding any circumstances relating to academic work. Copying the work from a previous class, using another student's work, failing to cite references, etc. are also considered violations.

### **Office Hours:**

I am happy to see students during posted office hours. Students who have made an appointment will receive priority over those without one. I am also happy to meet with students outside of regular office hours, but that needs to be pre-arranged.

**Finally**, as a reminder, current COE policy does not allow a C- or below to count toward major degree requirements.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.