COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the intersection between women and the criminal justice system. In the class we will examine the nature and extent of women as offenders, as victims and as workers in the criminal justice system. We will explore theories related to offending as well as victimization. And we will investigate the relationship between victimization and offending. And we will study the intricacies of women in the criminal justice system as offenders (i.e., prisoners, probationers, etc.) as well as workers (i.e., law enforcement officers, correction workers, and law makers).

Objectives
Following this course you should be able to understand and discuss the
  • issues related to and varieties of gender and crime;
  • applicable theories and research;
  • particulars associated with prosecuting and sentencing female offenders; and
  • an overview of victims, offenders, and professionals.

Required Readings

The course text is available in the bookstore:

A second book is needed to complete the research paper: Venkatesh, Sudhir. 2008. Gang leader for a day: A rogue sociologist takes to the streets. Penguin Publishing: New York:NY. This book is not in the bookstore, but it available in local books stores or online at places such as Amazon for as little at about $7. (For example, see: http://www.amazon.com/Gang-Leader-Day-Sociologist-Streets/dp/1594201501). More information on the research paper is forthcoming in class.

Additional Readings

In addition to readings from the textbook, I may assign readings from others sources. The materials will be distributed in class or provided on Blackboard. It is expected that you read material before the scheduled class meeting so we can discuss the topics in class. All required readings will form the basis of class discussion and will be covered in the exams.
Contacting me

If you need to contact me, please use the email provided above on the first day of class. If I may need to contact you between classes, I will accomplish this using individual and group email messages on Blackboard. Given this, it is required that you check your university email address regularly.

Exams

There are two exams in this course, each worth one-third of your final grade. Questions on the exams assess students’ understanding of the readings and the materials presented in class lectures and discussions. Each exam includes 50 multiple choice questions, and is administered without books, notes or other substantive materials.

Research Paper

A comprehensive research paper is required. Specific details regarding this paper are provided on a separate handout. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>100 point scale:</th>
<th>87-89 B+</th>
<th>77-79 C+</th>
<th>67-69 D+</th>
<th>59 or less F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93+ A</td>
<td>83-86 B</td>
<td>73-76 C</td>
<td>63-66 D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92 A-</td>
<td>80-82 B-</td>
<td>70-72 C-</td>
<td>60-62 D-</td>
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Exams will be graded on a standard 100 point scale. Each exam is worth 33.3% of your final grade. The research paper is worth the remaining 33.4% of your final grade. There is no curving of grades in this course.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

I am a stickler regarding personal responsibility. I will not hound you for assignments, nor will I remind you of things for which you are responsible. I do not "give out" grades - you earn them. I don’t review for exams — that is what the entire semester is all about. And I don’t offer extra credit.

Attendance

I do not take attendance. Though I don’t require attendance, please know that students who attend class tend to do far better on exams than students who chose not to attend. There will be some material covered in class that is not presented in the text. You will be responsibility for this material on the exams. I do not provide lecture notes and I do not give make-up lectures during office hours.

Missing exams
Do not miss an exam for any reason that you have not cleared with me at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled exam date. The only exception to this is an unavoidable horrendous tragic emergency or one's own death. In unavoidable emergency cases, I require students (or a representative) to contact me asap to explain the situation, provide me with documentation, and schedule a make-up (100% essay exams). In other cases, you will be awarded a zero on the exam. I cannot emphasize strongly enough that you should not miss an exam.

Academic Honesty

Cheating/Plagiarism is simply not tolerated. Many students are unclear as to exactly what constitutes cheating/plagiarism. If you have any questions about this, please see me and we can discuss it. It is better to ask and be certain than it is to suffer the consequences of this activity.

Dropping the Course

University drop dates are adhered to in this class. It is your responsibility to know when the drop dates are, obtain the appropriate form, bring it to me for signature and then to route it. If you are on the class roll on the last day of class, you will be awarded a grade.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Students are expected to complete the readings before the class meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Readings to have been completed/ come ready to discuss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Going over syllabus and expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Getting the most out of your readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Historical Development of Women’s Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Muraskin Chapters 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>Victims of Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Slide show on the nature and extent of VAW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Feb 8  

**Victims of Violence, continued**


Frames and African Women’s Explanations for Opposing Female Genital Cutting.” *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*.


Feb 15  

**Victims of Violence, continued**


Feb 22  
Victims of Violence, continued  
Muraskin Chapters 9-14

Mar 1  
Victims of Violence, continued  
Muraskin Chapters 15-20

Mar 8  
Exam One

Mar 15  
Female Offenders

Slide show on female violent offending


Mar 22  
Spring Break Week

Mar 29  
Female Offenders, continued  
Muraskin Chapters 48-50


Jill Theresa Messing and John W. Heeren. 2004. Another Side of Multiple Murder: Women Killers in the Domestic Context. Homicide Studies 2004; 8; 123-

**April 5**

**Female Offenders, continued**

Muraskin Chapters 48-50

**April 12**

**Women, Arrest and Prison**

Muraskin Chapters 28-36

**April 19**

**Women, Arrest and Prison, continued**


**RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE: WOMEN AS VICTIMS, OFFENDERS, OR BOTH?**

**April 26**

**Women and Professions**

Muraskin Chapters 37-44
May 3  Women and Professions, continued


May 10  Exam 2

WOMEN’S PRISON