

Gender, Crime, and Justice
Sociology 8200
Fall 2009

T/TH 9:30 – 10:45
Baldwin 114a

Instructor:

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Office: 309A Baldwin Hall
Office Hours: 11:00 – 12:00 Thurs.
and by appointment

Course Overview

In this course we will be examining crime, criminology, the criminal justice system, and the law from a gendered perspective. In doing so, the class is organized around three basic themes: women as perpetrators, women as crime victims, and women as participants in the legal process. First, we will be considering the ways in which traditional criminological theories and feminist theories have dealt with the “woman question.” We will also examine gender differences in the nature and extent of crime, as well as the role of gender and power in the construction and interpretation of laws. Next, we will take a look at women in the prison system, exploring changes in women’s patterns of incarceration, as well as looking at differences between men’s and women’s prison experiences. In addition, we will explore gender and victimization, with a focus on sexual violence. Here we will study how constructions of masculinity and femininity affect perceptions and perpetration of sexual violence, and also examine legal system responses to rape. Last, we will examine women’s roles as legal professionals.

Required Readings:

Belknap, Joanne. 2007. The Invisible Woman: Gender, Crime, and Justice (3rd edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Britton, Dana M. 2003. At Work in the Iron Cage: The Prison as Gendered Organization. New York: New York University Press.

Chesney-Lind, Meda and Lisa Pasko. 2004. The Female Offender: Girls, Women, and Crime (2nd edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Felson, Richard B. 2002. Violence & Gender Reexamined. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Schram Pamela J. and Barbara Koons-Witt. 2004. Gendered Injustice: Theory and Practice in Feminist Criminology. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

Smart, Carol. 1995. Law, Crime, and Sexuality: Essays in Feminism. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

*Articles as indicated on the syllabus *

Course Requirements

- (1) Paper - 35%. The paper should be 15-20 pages, exclusive of references, and is due in class on Dec. 3rd. While this paper must be directly related to the sociological study of gender and crime/justice you are not limited to the specific topics covered in class. You must have all paper topics approved, however, and I strongly encourage you to meet with me early in the semester to begin discussing possible topics.
- (2) Class Facilitation is worth 20% of your grade. Each of you will be responsible for leading 3 class sessions. You will receive a hand-out detailing the expectations for class facilitation.
- (3) Two Essays – 15% each. You will have two take-home essay assignments. Essay questions will be similar in format to those that might appear on a comprehensive exam. Answers should be approximately 10 pages each, exclusive of references (typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font). You may consult your notes and any published materials in answering the questions. You may not, however, seek advice or help from anyone. Due dates are indicated on the syllabus.
- (4) Class Participation is worth 15% of your grade. You are expected to have read the assigned chapter/articles before coming to class. Therefore, you should participate actively in all class discussions, providing thoughtful comments on the course material. All class sessions will be discussion-oriented, meaning that you should not come to class expecting a lecture (you are likely to be disappointed). You are also expected to have well-informed responses to each of the “reading questions” that will be handed out prior to class. If students are not prepared to discuss the questions and the readings, I will cancel class. This means if you haven’t done the reading, don’t expect me to do it for you!

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Weighted Average
A	94 - 100
A-	90 - 93.99
B+	87 - 89.99
B	84 - 86.99
B-	80 - 83.99
C+	77 - 79.99
C	74 - 76.99
C-	70 - 73.99
D	60 - 69.99
F	59.99 and below

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend all class sessions and to have the assigned material completed prior to each class meeting. It is detrimental to class, as a whole, when individuals do not attend regularly. Therefore, I reserve the right to administratively withdraw students for excessive absences. If an emergency arises that forces you to miss class, you notify me and make arrangements to get notes from a classmate.

Late Paper/Essay Policy

Papers and essays turned in after the date/time indicated on the syllabus will be assessed a one-letter grade penalty for each 24 hours that the assignment is late. For example, a paper turned in at 10:30 a.m. on the due date will be assessed a one-letter grade penalty. A paper turned in at 10:30 a.m. the day following the due date will be assessed a two-letter grade penalty. Exceptions to the policy will be granted only if there are significant extenuating circumstances, such as serious illness. Note that over-sleeping, running out of printer ink, or arriving too late to find a parking space will not qualify.

Academic Honesty Policy

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. See <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/memonly.htm> for a statement of these standards.

Human Rights Statement

All students should know that the Department of Sociology has a Human Rights Committee for the resolution of all student grievances. Any student registered for a sociology course at the University of Georgia who feels that he or she has not been treated in a fair or professional manner by an instructor is advised to follow these procedures:

- (1) The student should discuss his or her problems with the instructor of the course, unless extenuating circumstances prohibit this.
- (2) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance, the student should discuss the problem with the Head of the Department of Sociology.
- (3) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance to the satisfaction of the student, the student may request the activation of the Human Rights Committee by submitting a letter to the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia.

The Human Rights Committee will have the responsibility of investigating all charges in accordance with procedures on file in the Sociology office, copies of which are available to students. The Committee will also have the responsibility of making recommendations in writing to the Head, copies of which will be made available to the student complainant and the instructor involved. The Department Head will review the recommendations and make a decision in writing, with copies to the student complainant and the instructor or staff member involved. Any appeal of that decision must be made to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Course Outline

August 18: Course Overview

Gender, Feminism, and Criminology

August 20: Belknap, Chapter 1

Daly and Chesney-Lind, in Gendered Injustice

Britton, in Gendered Injustice

Flavin, in Gendered Injustice

Gender and the Causes of Crime

August 25: Belknap, Chapter 2

LaGrange, Teresa C. and Robert A. Silverman. 1999. "Low Self-Control and Opportunity: Testing the General Theory of Crime as an Explanation for Gender Differences in Delinquency." Criminology 37:41-69

King, Ryan D., Michael Massoglia, and Ross MacMillan. 2007. "The Context of Marriage and Crime: Gender, the Propensity to Marry, and Offending in Early Adulthood." Criminology 45:33-65.

August 27: Brody, Lisa and Robert Agnew. 1997. "Gender and Crime: A General Strain Theory Perspective." Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency 34:275-306.

Jang, Sung Joon. 2007. "Gender Differences in Strain, Negative Emotions, and Coping Behaviors: A General Strain Theory Approach." Justice Quarterly 24:523-553.

September 1: Heimer, Karen and Stacey DeCoster. 1999. "The Gendering of Violent Delinquency." Criminology 37:277-317.

Schwartz, Martin D. and Victoria L. Pitts. 1995. "Exploring a Feminist Routine Activities Approach to Explaining Sexual Assault." Justice Quarterly 12:9-31.

September 3: Chesney-Lind, Meda. 1989. "Girls' Crime and Woman's Place: Toward a Feminist Model of Female Delinquency." Crime and Delinquency 35:5-29.

Steffensmeier and Allen, in Gendered Injustice

Nature and Extent of Offending

September 8: Belknap, Chapter 3

Chesney- Lind and Pasko, Chapters 1-4

September 10: Chesney-Lind and Pasko, Chapters 5 and 6

Lauritsen, Janet L., Karen Heimer, and James P. Lynch. 2009. "Trends in the Gender Gap in Violent Offending: New Evidence from the National Crime Victimization Survey." Criminology 47:361-399.

Schwartz, Jennifer, Darrell Steffensmeier, Hua Zhong, and Jeff Ackerman. 2009. "Trends in the Gender Gap in Violence: Reevaluating NCVS and Other Evidence." Criminology 42:401-425.

Heimer, Karen, Janet L. Lauritsen, and James P. Lynch. 2009. "The National Crime Victimization Survey and the Gender Gap in Offending: Redux." Criminology 42: 427-438.

September 15: Miller, in Gendered Injustice

Koons-Witt and Schram, in Gendered Injustice

Kruttschnitt, Candace and Carbone-Lopez, Kristin. 2006. "Moving Beyond the Stereotypes: Women's Subjective Accounts of Their Violent Crime." Criminology 44:321-351.

September 17: Kreager, Derek A. 2007. "Unnecessary Roughness? School Sports, Peer Networks, and Male Adolescent Violence." American Sociological Review 72:705-724.

Alden, Helena L. and Karen F. Parker. 2005. "Gender Role Ideology, Homophobia, and Hate Crime: Linking Attitudes to Macro-level Anti-gay and Lesbian Hate Crimes." Deviant Behavior 26:321-343.

Gender and Victimization: Overview and Woman-Battering

September 22: Belknap, Chapters 6 & 8

Yodanis, Carrie L. 2004. "Gender Inequality, Violence Against Women, and Fear: A Cross-National Test of the Feminist Theory of Violence Against Women." Journal of Interpersonal Violence 19:655-675.

September 24: Johnson, Michael P. 2006. "Conflict and Control: Gender Symmetry and Asymmetry in Domestic Violence." Violence Against Women 12:1003-1018.

Stark, Evan. 2006. "Commentary on Johnson." Violence Against Women 12:1019-1025.

ESSAY QUESTION #1 DISTRIBUTED

Gender and Victimization: Sexual Violence

September 29: Belknap, Chapter 7

Kilpatrick, Dean G. 2004. "What is Violence Against Women: Defining and Measuring the Problem." Journal of Interpersonal Violence 19:1209-1234.

Fisher, Bonnie S., Francis T. Cullen, and Leah E. Daigle. 2005. "The Discovery of Acquaintance Rape: The Salience of Methodological Innovation and Rigor." Journal of Interpersonal Violence 20:493-500.

October 1: Casey, E.A., and Nurius, P.S. 2006. "Trends in the Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Assault: A Cohort Analysis." Violence and Victims 21:629-644.

Armstrong, Elizabeth A., Laura Hamilton, and Brian Sweeney. 2006. "Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multi-level, Integrative Approach to Party Rape." Social Problems 53:483-499

ESSAY DUE by 9:30 a.m.

October 6: Hagan, John, Wenona Rymond-Richmond, and Patricia Parker. 2005. "The Criminology of Genocide: The Death and Rape of Darfur." Criminology 43:525-561.

Cobbina, Jennifer E., Jody Miller, and Rod K. Brunson. 2008. "Gender, Neighborhood Danger, and Risk-Avoidance Strategies Among Urban African-American Youths." Criminology 46:673-709.

Martin, Kimberly, Lynne M. Vieraitis, and Sarah Britto. 2006. "Gender Equality and Women's Absolute Status: A Test of the Feminist Models of Rape." Violence Against Women 12:321-339.

October 8: Campbell, Alex. 2005. "Keeping the 'Lady' Safe: The Regulation of Femininity Through Crime Prevention Literature." Critical Criminology 13:119-140.

Clay-Warner, Jody and Callie H. Burt. 2005. "Reporting Rape: Have Things Really Changed?" Violence Against Women

Gender and Violence: Challenge to the Feminist Critique

October 13: Felson, Chapters 1-8

October 15: Felson, Chapters 9-13

Gender, Law, and Incarceration

October 20: Belknap, Chapter 4

Nagel and Johnson, Gendered Injustice

October 22: Smart, Parts I & II

- October 27: Smart, Part III
- October 29: Bush-Baskette, in Gendered Injustice
 Logan, in Gendered Injustice
- ESSAY #2 DISTRIBUTED**
- November 3: American Society of Criminology Meetings
- November 5: American Society of Criminology Meetings
- ESSAY #2 DUE BY 9:30 A.M.**
- November 10: Chesney-Lind and Pasko, Chapter 7
 Hannah-Moffat, in Gendered Injustice
 Morash and Robinson, in Gendered Injustice

Women Working in the Criminal Justice System

- November 12: Belknap, Chapters 9-11
 Clay-Warner, Jody and Jennifer McMahon. 2007. "Gender Bias in the Legal Profession: From the Bassinette to the Bar." in It's a Crime: Women and Justice (4th edition), edited by Roslyn Muraskin. New York: Prentice Hall
- November 17: Britton, At Work in the Iron Cage
- November 19: Britton, At Work in the Iron Cage
- November 24: Thanksgiving Break
- November 26: Thanksgiving Break
- December 1: Presentations and Peer-Review of Papers
- December 3: Presentations and Peer-Review of Papers
- December 7 FINAL PAPERS DUE by 10:00 a.m.**

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