

Course Objectives:

1. To examine and analyze the nature and extent of women's involvement in criminal behaviour.
2. To examine and discuss the role of various social control agencies in the processing of female offenders.
3. To critically examine and analyze historical and contemporary explanations of female criminality.
4. To describe and discuss the broader social, legal, and economic realities that impact female criminality.
5. To identify and discuss the unique victimization experiences of women.
6. To identify and describe the participation of women as professionals in the criminal justice system.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Completion of this course, will enable you to:

1. Communicate your understanding of the extent and nature of women's criminal involvement in Canada, their victimization experiences, and participation in criminal justice professions.
2. Describe, analyze, and evaluate historical and contemporary explanations of women's criminal behaviour.
3. Describe, and critically analyze the manner in which women have traditionally been processed and managed within the justice system.

Grade Distribution:

A+	=	95-100%	B-	=	70-74
A	=	90-94	C+	=	65-69
A-	=	85-89	C	=	60-64
B+	=	80-84	D	=	50-59
B	=	75-79	F	=	below 50

A standing of INC will only be awarded upon prior arrangement between teacher and student.

What do the grades mean?

A: The student demonstrates all of the qualities of the "B" student and shows added resourcefulness, initiative and excellence in meeting course requirement. An "A" student surpasses the expectations of the course by doing additional reading, providing well thought-out and a clearly expressed ideas on exams and assignments. Demonstrates analytical and critical thinking skills.

B: Clearly performing above average, demonstrating a solid grasp of the readings and lecture material, and is able to reflect this knowledge orally and in writing. Demonstrates analytical thinking skills.

C: Meets all course requirements satisfactorily and has a competent understanding of the material. Further improvement is attainable with effort and refined reading, writing and analytical skills.

D: Generally performing below average. Does not show signs of having read the assigned readings or is unable to present ideas in writing and insufficient clarity or detail. May need remedial assistance to elevate reading/writing skills.

F: Fails to meet all or most course requirements. This may be due to poor attendance, hastily prepared assignments, not having done the readings or some other correctable problem. The course could be taken again with instructor's permission.

Course Assignments and Evaluation:

The total marks in this course are distributed as follows:

1. Term paper	-20%
2. Written assignment on <i>Women in trouble</i>	-10%
3. Midterm exam	-25%
4. Participation/Journal Contributions	-10%
4. Final Exam	-35%

Course Assignments and Exams:

1. Term paper

Each student is required to write an 8-10 page term paper on a course related topic of their choice. Guidelines for this assignment will be distributed separately in class.

Value: 20%
Due date: **March 18, 2004**

2. Written Assignment on *Women in trouble* 10%

A set of questions related to this text will be distributed in class.

3. Examinations 60%

There will be two exams scheduled during the term. Exams may be comprised of a number of short answer, short essay, and true/false questions. The dates will be as follows:

Mid-term exam – **Feb 26, 2004** 25%
Final exam - to be scheduled during exam week 35%

Each exam must be written on the date it is assigned. No provision will be made to write an exam earlier and a student will only be allowed to write a missed exam on provision of a valid medical certificate attesting to the fact that he/she was ill on the date of the original test. In addition, the student who misses an exam due to illness must inform the instructor on the date of the exam of the reason of his/her absence.

4. Participation/ Journal contributions 10%

The success of this course is dependent on each student actively participating in both open discussions and group-based discussions during class time. In order to fully contribute to these discussions it is imperative that each student complete the course readings and come prepared to contribute their understanding, opinions, and analysis of the subject materials. Participation marks will be awarded by a combination of self, peer and instructor assessment. Each student will evaluate their group members based on that person's contribution to group work. The evaluation will be based on criteria that I have set out on an evaluation form and carries a value of 5 of the 10 marks. The mark awarded to each student will be the average of all other group member's marks. The other 5 marks will be an average of my assessment and your own self assessment using the same criteria and evaluation forms. Another form of participation will be through contributions made to the class journal. This opportunity will be discussed further in class.

Instructional Policies

1. Late Penalty

All assignments must be completed and submitted on the date assigned. All late written work will be penalized by 20% per day unless an extension is legitimately warranted and approved by the instructor in advance of the assignment due date.

2. Written Assignment Requirements

All assignments must be handed to the instructor at the beginning of class. Assignments should be turned in to the instructor personally; assignments put under the door or in the mail, or otherwise submitted will not be accepted. If the submission of an assignment is problematic, come see me well in advance of the submission date.

Written assignments for this course must be typewritten, double-spaced and meet the basic requirements set out in the Criminal Justice Writing Reference Manual.

3. Plagiarism, Cheating and Academic Dishonesty

If plagiarism, cheating or academic dishonesty can be documented, the penalty will be an automatic "zero" on the assignment in question.

4. Course Withdrawal

The last day to withdraw from this course without receiving a failing grade or academic penalty is March 8, 2004.

5. Course Completion Requirements

Students must complete all evaluative requirements (outline and bibliography, final term paper, exams) to receive a passing grade for this course. Unless granted prior instructor approval, a student who fails to complete any one of the evaluative requirements will automatically receive an "F" grade.

6. Mark/Grade Challenges and Appeals

A student seeking to question a mark assigned by the instructor on any course evaluation component, must clearly articulate in writing the specific element of the assignment being questioned and provide written reasons or arguments supporting a change in the mark. The Student Appeals Procedure is found on page 41/45 of the 2003/2004 college calendar.

7. Student Responsibility

It is each student's responsibility to familiarize her/himself with course and college policies. Students experiencing difficulties during the term are encouraged to talk to the instructor at the earliest opportunity.

8. Class Discussion Rules

The first and most fundamental principle for participation in this class is that of respect. This will be expected of all persons present both in and out of class while engaged in the discussion of class material.

Please remember the guidelines during class discussions:

-participation in discussion is encouraged; remember not to take more than your fair share of class time to present your perspective or point of view.

-your contributions should be couched in respectful language, free of intense emotions, and should not be critical of the presenter, or otherwise personalized. Identify and criticize a statement point of view, opinion or belief; identify why you disagree with the statement not the messenger.

-speak respectfully to and about groups whether or not they are represented in class. Remarks that stereotype a group or are sexist, homophobic, racist etc. damage the class atmosphere and will be respectfully challenged.

-everyone has the right to make mistakes, even the instructor; this is how learning occurs and it contributes to intellectual growth. Let's be patient and respectful of one another's intellectual and personal growth.

-If speaking in class is really difficult for you, please come see me to discuss other ways of contributing as soon as possible.

Class Schedule

Jan. 6 Introduction of course content, format, evaluation

Jan. 8/13 Why should we study women and their various experiences in the criminal justice system?

Reading #1 – The emergence of gender in criminology

Jan. 15/20 Female offenders; who are they and what have they done?

Jan. 22 Women in trouble

Ch. 1,2, 3 Elizabeth Comack

Jan. 27/29 Theoretical explanations of female criminality

Reading #2 – The criminology of women, feminist criminology and the new female criminal

- Feb. 3/5 The CJS response: processing of female offenders
- Reading #3 Women in the criminal justice system***
Reading #4 Justice for Canadian girls: a 1990's update
- Feb.10/17/19/24 Women in prison: punishing the female offender
(videos: Prison Babies/Twice Condemned)
- Reading #5 Introduction:Prisons for women-theor,y reform, ideals***
Reading #6 Women in prison
Ch. 4 Elizabeth Comack
- Feb. 26 Mid-term
- Mar. 2/4 Women as victims: measuring and explaining
the victimization of women
- Reading #7 Methods of measurement***
- Mar. 9/11 Sexual assault/Dating violence
- Reading #8 Dating violence***
- Mar. 16/18 Wife assault
(video: Without Fear)
- Reading #9 Prevalence and consequences of spousal assault in Canada***
Reading #10 Making sense of woman abuse
- Mar. 23 Spousal killings
(video: When Women Kill)
- Reading #11 Creating a precedent: Battered woman syndrome***
- Mar. 25/30 Women as CJ professionals: resistance to change
April 1/6
- Apr. 8 Looking ahead: gender and justice
Wrap up