



School of Arts & Science
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Crim 286- Women and Criminal Justice
Winter 2009

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of women's victimization experiences, involvement in crime, explanations of female criminality, and the criminal justice system's response to female offenders. Particular attention will be given to feminist theoretical explanations and analysis of the defining and processing of women as offenders. Women's increasing role as criminal justice professionals will also be examined.

1. Instructor Information

- (a) Instructor- Karin Kaercher
- (b) Office hours – Tues/Thurs – 10:30-11:30; Mon/Wed 12:30-1:30
- (c) Location - Young 210A
- (d) Phone - 370-3333
- (e) E-mail Kaercher@camosun.bc.ca
- (f) Website <http://www.camosun.bc.ca/schools/artsci/crim/faculty.php>

2. Intended 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.

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.

3. Required Materials

(a) Texts

Comack, Elizabeth (1996) ***Women in trouble***. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing

Crim 286 ***Readings on women and criminal justice*** (required reading material available in the Camosun College Bookstore)

(b) Other - Recommended:

Writing reference manual for the Criminal Justice program

4. Course Content and Schedule

Course Format:

Course content is conveyed through one hour and twenty minute lectures/seminars twice weekly and assigned readings. Course delivery methods include lectures, guest speakers, audio-visual presentations, and individual and group exercises and presentations as assigned by the instructor in class.

Class Schedule

Jan. 6	Video: In the face of justice – introduction to course
Jan. 8	Social Identity/Standpoint exercise; class norms
Jan 13	Why should we study women and their various experiences in the criminal justice system? <i>Reading#1 The emergence of gender in criminology</i>

PART ONE: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Jan. 15 Violence Against women; forms and measurement
A Global Perspective
Video: You Can't Beat a Woman
- Jan 20-22 Violence in the context of intimate relationships: forms of violence,
theories of explanation
Reading #2 Violence against women in intimate relationships
- Jan 27 Violence in the context of intimate relationships: a survivor's story
- Jan 29 CJS response to intimate partner violence
- Feb. 3 Spousal killings and the defense of battered women's syndrome: (**video
When women kill**)
Reading #3 Creating a precedent: Battered women's syndrome
- Feb. 5 Date Rape (**video: dating violence**)
- Feb.10-12 Sexual Assault: definition, legal issues, and the challenges of prosecution
Reading #4 Charges and sentencing in sexual assault cases
- Feb. 17 Support services to victims of sexual assault
- Feb. 24 Human Trafficking – a discussion
- Feb. 26 Women in trouble
Reading – Comack Ch 1,2,3

PART TWO: WOMEN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

- Mar 3/5 Female Offenders: who are they and what have they done?
**Reading #5 The criminology of women, feminist criminology and
the new female criminal**
- Mar 10/12 **Reading #6 Girls in Trouble**
Reading # 7 Women and children in Canada's sex trade
- Mar 17/19/24 The criminal justice system response to female criminality
- Mar 26-31 Women in prison (**video: Twice Condemned; Prison Babies**)
Reading #8 Women in prison
Comack: Ch 4/5

PART THREE: WOMEN IN THE CJ PROFESSIONS

- Apr. 2/7 Women as CJ professionals: lawyers, correctional workers and police
Breaking barriers???
**Reading #9 Defining moments for women as lawyers: Reflections on
numerical gender equality**
**Reading #10 It was like "wow": the experience of women lawyers in
a profession marked by linear careers**
**Reading #11 Gender differences in occupational characteristics of
Canadian correctional officers**
Reading #12 Women in policing
- Apr. 9 Looking ahead: gender and justice – **Wrap up- Video: In the Face of
Justice**

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

The total marks in this course are distributed as follows:

1. Written Assignment	-20%
2. Women in trouble assignment	-30%
3. Participation	-10%
4. Final Exam	-40%

Description of Course Assignments and Evaluation

1. **Written Assignment – Human trafficking**

Students will be required to complete a 4-6 page paper analyzing the issue of human trafficking based on gender, age, race and class. A guideline for this assignment will be distributed separately in class.

Value: **20%**
Due date: Feb 5, 2009

2. **Women in trouble assignment**

In this assignment, students will be provided with a set of questions related directly to the content of the text **women in trouble**. The questions will be distributed during the second week of class.

Value: **30%**
Due date: February 26, 2009

5. **Participation** **10%**

The success in this course is dependent on each student actively participating in both open discussions and group-based activities during class time. In order to fully contribute to these discussions it is imperative that students come prepared to contribute their understanding, opinions, and analysis of the subject materials. Participation marks will be awarded by a combination of self and instructor assessment.

6. **Exam** **40%**

There is a final exam only and this will be scheduled during the final exam week. The exam will be comprised of a number of short essay, short answer, and true/false questions.

The 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.

6. Grading System

(If any changes are made to this part, then the Approved Course description must also be changed and sent through the approval process.)

(Insert appropriate approved grading system – see last page of this template.)

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B = 73 - 76%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 90%	B- = 70 - 72%	F = 0.0 - 49%
A- = 80 - 84%	C+ = 65 - 69%	
B+ = 77 - 79%	C = 60 - 64%	

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.

7. **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. Papers must be properly referenced using the APA referencing format. An undocumented paper will not be accepted.

3. Plagiarism, Cheating and Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is the appropriation of ideas or passages from an author's work that is used without giving them credit. A generally accepted rule in regards to the use of words written by an author whose work you are using, is that 5 or more consecutive words must be placed in quotations and cited. Any ideas used must be credited using a parenthetical citation.

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 9, 2009.

5. Course Completion Requirements

Students must complete all evaluative requirements (human trafficking assignment, women in trouble assignment, exam) 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 34 of the 2008/2009 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 these 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.

Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html