

University of Manitoba  
Department of Sociology

**SOC 3790 Women Crime and Social Justice (A01)**

June Day: May 30 – June 21, 2016, 3 credit hours (CRN: 30801)  
(Monday - Friday: 10:45 am – 12:45 pm in Room 235 Isbister)

**Instructor:** Mary-Anne Kandrack      **Office:** 301E Isbister Building  
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**Objectives of the course:**

This course provides a focused analysis of women, crime and social justice. Drawing on feminist scholarship in the field, the course examines gender differences in crime, including the ways in which ideas about gender-appropriate deviance shape the social response to rule-breaking. Specific attention will be paid to crime perpetrated against women and the histories/experiences of abuse among women offenders. This provides for an analysis of the experience and treatment of women in the criminal justice system as well as the new directions that feminist theory, research and practice suggests are more fruitful in understanding women, crime and social justice.

**Required text:**

Comack, E. (Eds) Women in Trouble Fernwood: Halifax: 1996.  
\*Additional readings will be assigned and provided in-class.

**Course requirements:**

The final grade for the course will be based on the following:

- 1) Attendance (10%): two points will be deducted for each absence.
- 2) In-class Test (35%): Friday, June 10, 2016.
- 3) Group Presentation (20%): June 16 – 17, 2016
- 4) Take home test (35% of final grade): Friday, June 24, 2016

The course requirements will be based on the readings, lectures and class discussions. Students are expected to attend class and will lose 2 points per day for classes missed without appropriate documentation (e.g. medical note). Students are also expected to complete the readings in advance of the lectures so that any problems, concerns or issues can be raised for discussion in class. Participation in class discussion is both welcomed and encouraged.

**Make-up tests and late assignments will not be considered unless appropriate documentation has been received.** Requests for special consideration must be made well in advance

Study questions for the in-class and take home tests will be distributed in advance. Requirements for the group exercise will be detailed in a separate hand-out.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating and exam personation. Specifically, see **Personation at Examinations" (Section 5.2.9)** and **Plagiarism and Cheating (Section 8.1)** and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at:  
[http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student\\_resources/student\\_responsibilities\\_integrity/index.html](http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity/index.html).

Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will be the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

**The voluntary withdrawal date for June day half courses is June 15, 2016. For 100% refund, the deadline is June 1, 2016**

**Grade distribution:**

<b>A+ 95-100</b>	<b>B+ 80-85</b>	<b>C+ 65-71</b>	<b>D 50-59</b>
<b>A 86-94</b>	<b>B 72-79</b>	<b>C 60-64</b>	<b>F &lt;50</b>

The course work will be evaluated with a letter grade, not a point system. The benchmarks of the grade ranges are defined as follows:  
**D/F** An answer which is factually weak, faulty analysis and very poor organization. (D: marginal / F: failure)  
**C** An answer which is mostly complete in terms of facts but suffers from poor analysis, organization and integration. Knowing the facts is a good start, but only a beginning. (C: adequate / C+: satisfactory)  
**B** An answer which is factually accurate and mostly complete as well as organized and integrated. (B: good / B+: very good)  
**A** An answer which is factually complete, well organized, providing a sophisticated analysis which demonstrates a sound comprehension of the issues and their implications. (A: excellent / A+: exceptional)

**DISRUPTIONS:** On the issue of politeness, please note that disruptions due to talking, late arrival and/or early departures to and from the classroom are disruptive. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving the class early should inform the instructor. Similarly, arriving late should be avoided and/or explained to the instructor.

**It should also be noted that lap top computers may only be used for the purpose of taking notes; any other uses will result in this privilege being withdrawn. Cell phones are to be turned off during class and text messaging is strictly prohibited. Students will be excused from the class if s/he refuses to comply with these restrictions.**

**Class Schedule:**

**This is a tentative class schedule and may be modified as we proceed. Our progress through the course materials will be monitored to determine whether any changes are appropriate.**

**May 30: Introduction and overview of the course**

**May 31 – June 9:**

The first section of the course examines preliminary considerations that are critical to the study of women, crime and social justice. This will include mainstream criminology and the feminist study of female offenders and crimes perpetrated against women as well as the relationship between female offending and histories of abuse.

**Readings:** Comack. **Women in Trouble.** Intro, Chapter 1, 2, 3 and the Appendix (Feminist Research Practice).

**Friday, June 3: Trying to Exit** (class discussion)

**Required Reading:** Gilfus, Mary E. "From Victims to Survivors to Offenders: Women's Routes of Entry and Immersion into Street Crime". (distributed in class)

**Friday June 10: In-class test (35% of final grade)**

**Class schedule continued...**

**June 13 - 21:**

The second section of the course engages a focused analysis of the experiences of women in the criminal justice system with a specific focus on women in prison. The last part of the course addresses the implications of these considerations with a view to new directions in feminist theory, research and practice.

**Readings:** Comack. Women in Trouble. Chapters 4 and 5.

***Group Presentations will be scheduled between June 16-17, 2016.***

**Friday, June 24: Take home test due at my office by 1:00 pm (35% of final grade) Please note: Students are NOT permitted to submit work electronically – a hard copy must be provided to the instructor.**