

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology

SOC 3790 Women Crime and Social Justice (A01)

July Day: June 25 - July 18, 2012, 3 credit hours
(Monday - Friday: 8:30 - 10:30 am in Room 244 University College)

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 texts:

Comack, E. Women in Trouble, Fernwood, Halifax: 1996.

Balfour, G. and Comack, E. Criminalizing Women: Gender and Injustice in Neo-Liberal Times, Fernwood: Halifax: 2006.

Course requirements:

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

- 1) Attendance (10%): one point will be deducted for each absence.
- 2) In-class Group Documentary Analysis (20%): Friday June 29, 2012
- 3) In-class Test (30%): Friday, July 6, 2012.
- 4) Group Presentation (20%): TBA
- 5) In-class test (20% of final grade): Wednesday, July 18, 2012

The course requirements will be based on the readings, lectures and class discussions. Students are expected to attend class and 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 tests will be distributed in advance. Requirements for both of the group exercises will be detailed in separate hand-outs.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students should familiarize themselves with the University's policy on 'Personation at Examinations (Section 5.2.9) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating (Section 8.1) found online under Umanitoba Catalog 2011-2012>General Academic Regulations>Section 8.Academic Integrity. The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

The voluntary withdrawal date for July day half courses is July 12, 2012.

Grade distribution:

A+ 95-100	B+ 80-85	C+ 65-71	D 50-59
A 86-94	B 72-79	C 60-64	F <50

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 disturbances 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.

June 25: Introduction and overview of the course

June 26 - July 5:

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 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, chapters 1 and 2.
Balfour and Comack. **Criminalizing Women**. Intro, Parts I and II.

Friday, June 29: In-class Documentary Analysis (20% of final grade)
All students must attend class with a two page summary of each required reading.

Required Reading: Balfour and Comack. Criminalizing Women.

ch 3 Bruckert and Parent, "The In-Call Sex Industry" and

ch 7 Bittle, "From Villain to Victim: Secure Care and Young Women in Prostitution".

*** Monday, July 2: No class Canada Day Holiday ***

Friday, July 6: In-class test (30% of final grade)

Class schedule continued...

July 9 - July 17:

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 3 - 5 and appendix.
Balfour and Comack. Criminalizing Women. Part III.

Group Presentations will be scheduled between July 9 and 17, 2012.

Wednesday, July 18: In-class test (20% of final grade)