

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology

SOC 3790 Women Crime and Social Justice

Winter term: January 6 - April 9, 2009, 3 credit hours
(Thursday: 7:00 - 10:00 in Room 301 Tier)

Instructor: Mary-Anne Kandrack
Phone: 474-9665

Office: 301E Isbister Building
Office hours: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
(and by appointment)

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:

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

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

Course requirements:

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

- 1) In-Class Group Documentary Analysis (20%): Thursday, January 22, 2009
- 2) Group Presentation (20%): To be scheduled
- 3) In-Class Test (30%): Thursday, February 12, 2009.
- 4) Take home test (30% of final grade): due Thursday, April 16, 2009 at my office by noon.

Study questions for the in-class test and the take home test will be distributed in advance. Requirements for both of the group exercises will be detailed in separate hand-outs.

Make-up tests and late assignments will not be considered unless appropriate documentation has been received.

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.

Students should familiarize themselves with the regulations regarding academic integrity, as plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Please familiarize yourself with the policies in Section 7 on page 28 of the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar 2008-09.

The voluntary withdrawal date for fall term half courses is March 19, 2009.

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

Grading:

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: A submission which is factually weak, faulty analysis and very poor organization (D: marginal/ F: failure)

C: A submission 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: A submission which is factually accurate and mostly complete as well as organized and integrated (B: good/ B+: very good)

A: A submission which is factually complete, well-organized, providing a sophisticated analysis which demonstrates a sound comprehension of the issues and implications (A: excellent/ A+: exceptional)

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.

January 8: Introduction and overview of the course

January 15-February 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, E. Women in Trouble.
Balfour and Comack. Criminalizing Women. pp 15 - 94.

Thursday, January 22: In-class Documentary Analysis (20% of final grade)

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. All students must attend class with a two page summary of each required reading.

Thursday, February 12: In-class test (30% of final grade)

February 16- 20: Reading Week

February 26 - April 9:

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: Balfour and Comack. Criminalizing Women Part III

Thursday, April 16: Take home test (30% of final grade): due in my office by noon.

***Please note: Students are not permitted to submit course work by e-mail.**