

University of Manitoba  
Department of Sociology

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

Fall term: September 9 - December 8, 2010, 3 credit hours  
(Slot 10: T/Th @ 1:00 - 2:15 in Room 235 Isbister)

Instructor: Mary-Anne Kandrack      Office: 301E Isbister Building  
Phone: 474-9665      Office hours: 10:30-11:00 am T/Th  
  
(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.

**Course requirements:**

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

- 1) In-Class Group Documentary Analysis (20%): Thursday, Sept 30/10
- 2) Group Presentation (20%): To be scheduled
- 3) In-Class Test (30%): Thursday, October 14/10.
- 4) Take home test (30% of final grade): due Thursday, December 14/10 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.** Requests for special consideration must be made well in advance. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor within one week of a missed assignment or test. Neglecting to do so will result in a grade of zero for that requirement.

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.

**Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students should familiarize themselves with the University's policy on 'Personation at Examinations (Section 4.2.8) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating (Section 7.1) found in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar 2010-11.** 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 fall term half courses is November 17, 2010.

**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

**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.

**September 9:** Introduction and overview of the course

**September 13 - October 12:**

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: Balfour and Comack. Criminalizing Women. Intro, Parts I and II.

**Thursday, September 30: 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, October 14: In-class test (30% of final grade)**

**October 19 - December 8:**

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, December 14: 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.** No exceptions.