

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology

SOC 3790 Women Crime and Social Justice (A01)

Fall term: September 8 - December 7, 2011, 3 credit hours
(Tues/Thurs @ 10:00 - 11:15 in Room 325 St. Paul's College)

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(and by appointment)

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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%)*
- 2) In-class Group Documentary Analysis (20%): Thursday, Sept. 29/11
- 3) In-class Test (30%): Thursday, October 13/11
- 4) Group Presentation (20%): TBA
- 5) In-class test (20% of final grade): Tuesday, December 6/11

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. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor within one week of a missed requirement or test. Neglecting to do so will result in a grade of zero for that requirement.

***Attendance at all classes is expected of all students and 1 (one) point will be deducted for each undocumented absence.** 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 fall term half courses is November 16, 2011.

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

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.

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: Comack. Women in Trouble. Intro, chapters 1 and 2.
Balfour and Comack. Criminalizing Women. Intro, Parts I and II.

September 29: 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 13: In-class test (30% of final grade)

October 18 - December 1:

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.

Tuesday, December 6: In-class test (20% of final grade)