

**University of Wisconsin
Department of Sociology
Sociology 496: Gender, Crime & Justice
Course Syllabus**

Professor: Dr. Melanie Janelle Murchison Ph.D. M.A. B.A(Hons.)
Office: Sewell Social Sciences 7129
Phone: 608-262-2753
E-Mail: mmurchison@wisc.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00 PM and Thursday 4:30 – 5:30 pm
Lecture Times: **Tuesday and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:15pm**
Classroom: Sewell Social Sciences 6104

Calendar Description:

This course will focus on the intersection between gender, crime and justice from a cross-cultural perspective. The gendered nature of the criminal justice system, female experiences of crime, prosecution and incarceration as well as the extent to which women are victims, offenders, and participants in the criminal justice system will be explored. Special emphasis will be placed on the theoretical implications of offending behaviour and the intersection of gender with sexuality, race, ethnicity and class. The goal of this course is to provide a foundation for critically assessing the often controversial issues surrounding race, gender, crime, and criminal justice in society.

Department learning objectives:

Beyond the specific substantive and methodological content I will cover in this course, I have designed this course to achieve the following instructional objectives designated as priorities by the Department of Sociology:

- *Critically Evaluate Published Research:* Legal Studies graduates will be able to read and evaluate published research as it appears in academic journals and popular or policy publications.
- *Communicate Skillfully:* Legal Studies majors write papers and make oral presentations that build arguments and assess evidence in a clear and effective manner.
- *Critical Thinking about Society and Social Processes:* Legal Studies graduates can look beyond the surface of issues to discover the "why" and "how" of social order and structure and consider the underlying social mechanisms that may be creating a situation, identify evidence that may adjudicate between alternate explanations for phenomena, and develop proposed policies or action plans in light of theory and data.

Required Textbooks:

Belknap, Joanne, 2015. **The Invisible Woman: Crime, Gender and Justice** Cengage Publication

Lecture Schedule:

Date:	Topic:	Readings:
September 6	Course Introduction/Sex vs. Gender	No Reading
September 8	Concept of Gender/Gender in Criminology	Chapter 1
September 13	Feminism in Criminology	Chapter 1

September 15	Gender in Criminological Theory	Chapter 2
September 19	Gender in Criminological Theory Con't	Chapter 3
September 22	Women Working in Criminal Justice	Chapter 10
September 26	Women Working in Criminal Justice Con't	Chapter 11
September 29	Women Working in Criminal Justice Con't	Chapter 12
October 4	Female Offending	Chapter 4
October 6	Female Offending Con't	Chapter 4
	Cut Off for Midterm Exam	
October 11	Review Class	
October 13	Midterm Exam	
October 18	Women Processed in the Criminal Justice System	Chapter 5
October 20	Women Processed in the Criminal Justice System	Chapter 5
October 25	The Incarceration of Women	Chapter 6
October 27	The Incarceration of Women Con't	Chapter 6
November 1	Gender-Based Abuse	Chapter 7
November 3	Gender-Based Abuse Con't	Chapter 7
November 8	Sexual Assault & Sexual Violence	Chapter 8
November 10	Sexual Assault & Sexual Violence Con't	Chapter 8
November 15	Intimate Partner Abuse/Stalking	Chapter 9
November 17	Intimate Partner Abuse/Stalking Con't	Chapter 9
November 22	Creating Social Change	Chapter 13
November 24	Happy Thanksgiving Weekend!	
November 29	Review Class	
December 1	Final Exam	
December 6- 8	Preparation for Symposium	
December 13 – 15	Symposium	

Group Project – 35% (Content & Presentation 25% - Participation with Group 10%)

This class will require you to participate in one group project which will span throughout the year. This project's aim is to encourage action instead of passive participation and critical engagement throughout the semester. Each student will put into a group of five, and each group will be required to pick a topic related to crime, gender and justice that most interests them. This can be anything from human trafficking to abortion to genital mutilation to working in the criminal justice field). Each group will be responsible for presenting their material in a symposium the last two classes through a poster presentation (size 36x48 and easily ordered on Amazon) and oral presentation (December 13 and 15, 2016). This format is not meant to limit you but to encourage you to think broadly about the issue. Please feel free to contact resources about your issue, and partner/volunteer/organize with them as required. At your table, you can hand out business cards, have resources available and have other "take away's" for the visitors. Other students and faculty will be invited to this symposium.

As group projects can be stressful and can sometimes have individuals who do not participate fully, a peer evaluation will be conducted and will count towards the grade makeup. Each group is required to meet with me at least once to gain topic approval.

Midterm Examination (October 13, 2015- Value 30%)

There is one, in-class midterm exam. They will be comprised of multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false and short answer questions. The material for the exam includes all required readings and all lecture materials. It will be discussed in class closer to the date of the exam. Study tips and sample questions will be provided in class.

You **MUST** provide advance notice to the professor if you are unable to take an exam. Students missing a scheduled exam must provide appropriate documentation (i.e. medical note) in order to write a deferred exam. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for missing an exam.

Late Assignment Penalty:

Please take note of the due dates for assignments. A late penalty of 5% may be assessed to the final paper grade for each partial day or day that any assignment is late. This means that your paper will be graded and the penalty will be deducted from that initial grade. A student requiring (not simply desiring) an extension **MUST** discuss and have their request approved **PRIOR TO THE DUE DATE**¹.

Final Exam: (Date: December 1, 2016- Value 35%)

The final exam is a **cumulative** in-class exam. It will cover the entire course with a concentrated focus on the final half of the course. It will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and essay questions.

Grading Scale: Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 92 - 100%
AB = 88 - 91%
B = 82 - 87%
BC = 78 - 81%
C = 70 - 77%
D = 60 - 69%
F = below 59%

Class Conduct: Disruptions such as talking, late arrivals or early departures are especially distracting to the instructor and to other students. Please be considerate of the needs and rights of others. Active cell phones, pagers, PDAs, etc. are not welcome. Laptop/tablet computers may only be used to facilitate notetaking, and solely at the instructor's discretion.

Electronic Recording: Any kind of recording (audio, video, both) of the lecture and its content is prohibited. I want every student to get the most out of lecture and this class, and if you need assistance with using lecture more efficiently please contact me.

Course Outline: Set forth is an outline of the material we plan to cover. We might vary from this

¹ Prior to the due date means a minimum of 48 hours before the assignment is due; except in rare circumstances.

schedule. Assignments may be changed by the instructor for any given class or topic listed below. Additional readings might be assigned.

Accommodations. Please send the instructor an email by the end of the second week of the course if you are eligible for special arrangements or accommodations for testing, assignments, or other aspects of the course. This may be the case if English is your second language or you experience a physical or psychological condition that makes it difficult for you to complete assignments and/or exams without some modification of those tasks. Accommodations are provided for students who qualify for disability services through the [McBurney Center](#). Their website has detailed instructions about how to qualify: <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/>. Provide a copy of your accommodations request (VISA) to the instructor by the end of the second week of class. We try to reserve rooms and proctors by the third week in class, so we must know of all accommodations by then.

If you wish to request a scheduling accommodation for religious observances, send an email by the end of the second week of the course stating the specific date(s) for which you request accommodation; campus policy requires that religious observances be accommodated if you make a timely request early in the term. See the university's [web page](#) for details: <https://kb.wisc.edu/page.php?id=21698>

Academic honesty. As with all courses at the University of Wisconsin, you are expected to follow the University's rules and regulations pertaining to academic honesty and integrity. The standards are outlined by the [Office of the Dean of Students](#) at <http://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/academic-integrity/>

According to UWS 14, academic misconduct is defined as:

- seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance;
- assists other students in any of these acts.

For a complete description of behaviors that violate the University's standards as well the disciplinary penalties and procedures, please see the Dean of Students [website](#). If you have questions about the rules for any of the assignments or exams, please ask your instructor.

Departmental notice of grievance and appeal rights. The Department of Sociology regularly conducts student evaluations of all professors and teaching assistants near the end of the semester. Students who have more immediate concerns about this course should report them to the instructor or to the chair, 8128 Social Science (Pamela.oliver@wisc.edu).