

## University of Wisconsin

### Legal Studies 400/Sociology 496: Gender, Crime & Justice Course Syllabus

<b>Professor:</b>	Melanie Janelle Murchison Ph.D. M.A. B.A(Hons.)
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday 2:30-3:30pm and Thursday 11:45am-12:45pm or by appointment
<b>Lecture Times:</b>	<b>Tuesday and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:15pm</b>
<b>Classroom:</b>	Sewell Social Sciences 6203

**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 Legal Studies Department:

1. Introduce students to the social, political, economic, and cultural determinants of law.
2. Introduce students to the social, political, and economic impacts of law at the macro level.
3. Introduce students to the impact of law and other rules on individual level decision-making at the micro level.
4. Introduce students to the dynamics of legal ideas and ideologies.
5. Introduce students to the functioning of legal institutions, and how those institutions differ from other societal institutions.
6. Introduce students to the place and relevance of law within the humanities and social sciences.
7. Introduce students to the cross-cultural and international valences of law in distinctive social orders.

#### **Required Textbooks:**

Mallicoat, Stacy (2016) **Women and Crime: A Text/Reader**, Second Edition *Sage Publication*

Kerman, Piper (2011) **Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women's Prison** *Spiegel and Grau*

**NB. You are responsible for reading Orange is the New Black at your own pace. Watching the Netflix series (while entertaining) is NOT an acceptable substitute!**

**Course Outline:** Set forth is an outline of the material we plan to cover. We might vary from this schedule. Assignments may be changed by the instructor for any given class or topic listed below. Additional readings might be assigned.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Readings:</b>
<b>Week 1 Part 1</b>	Course Introduction	Chapter 1
<b>Week 1 Part 2</b>	Introduction to Women and Crime	Chapter 1 Con't
<b>Week 2</b>	Theories of Victimization	Chapter 2
<b>Week 3</b>	Victimization: Intimate Partner Abuse	Chapter 4
<b>Week 4</b>	Victimization: Rape and Sexual Assault	Chapter 3
<b>Week 5</b>	International and Cross Cultural Perspectives	Chapter 5
<b>Week 6</b>	Theories on Female Offending	Chapter 6
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Review and Midterm</b>	
<b>Week 8</b>	Girls and Juvenile Delinquency	Chapter 7
<b>Week 9</b>	Female Offenders and Their Crimes	Chapter 8
<b>Week 10</b>	Processing and Sentencing of Female Offenders	Chapter 9
<b>Week 11</b>	The Incarceration of Women	Chapter 10
<b>Week 13</b>	Working in the Criminal Justice System (CJS)	Chapter 12
<b>Week 14</b>	Working in the CJS Con't	Chapter 13
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>Second Midterm Exam</b>	
<b>Week 16</b>	<b>Symposium</b>	

**Midterm Examinations Dates: October 19, 2017- Value 25% December 7, 2017 - Value 25%**

There are two in-class midterm exams. They are **non-cumulative** and will be comprised of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer and essay style 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.

### **Essay (Due Date: November 23, 2015– Value: 25%)**

You are required to write a persuasive essay based on the book “Orange is The New Black” by Piper Kerman as well as your own additional research (using peer reviewed and scholarly sources). Please make sure you begin reading the book as soon as class starts. The page limit for the essay is **10 pages**. Essays that are unreasonably over or under the page limit will be penalized. The page count includes any subheadings and citations but not the title page or bibliography. All essays should be in 12 point, Times New roman font and be double spaced and referenced using APA citation style.

### **Group Poster and Presentation Project – 25% (Content & Presentation 90% - 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 three, 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 oral presentation (December 12, and 14, 2017). 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.

**Please Note: Failing to participate in the symposium poster project will result in a final grade of F.**

Twitter is a great medium for information, interacting and receiving news. Our class will have a unique hashtag (#UWCGJ) that we will use throughout the course to share information. Please create a twitter account at the beginning of the semester and use it regularly.

### **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.

**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 please see the Dean of Students website. If you have questions about the rules for any of the assignments or exams, please ask.

**Departmental notice of grievance and appeal rights.** The Legal Studies Program regularly conducts student evaluations of all professors near the end of the semester. Students who have more immediate concerns about this course should report them to the instructor or to the Program Director (Alan Rubel)