Women and Crime  
CRJU-C410-001  

Summer 2010

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Class meeting information: Bobet Hall 221, Mondays 6:15 to 10:15 pm  
Class Dates: June 7 to August 2 (final exam)

Course Overview/Objectives:  
The study and practice of crime and criminal justice has historically involved relatively little regard for how women’s experiences as perpetrators and victims differ from males, and how these differences may affect policy and practice. Also neglected is the understanding of women’s experiences as professionals in the system and the acceptance of women as competent and effective guards, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, defenders, judges, and so on. The rate of female offending is currently growing more rapidly than rates of male offending, and women make up a large percentage of victims of crime, especially violent crime. Most of the criminal justice literature and focus within the system regarding practice and policy is on men despite the prominence of women in crime and in all capacities of the criminal system. This course is designed to examine the various roles and experiences of women in crime and criminal justice, focusing in particular on perpetration, victimization, and in professional roles within the system.

Student Learning Objectives:  
Students should gain the following upon successful completion of the course:

- A proficiency in the current literature on women as victims and perpetrators of crime and a deep understanding of these phenomena, including types of victimization/offending, patterns, and prevalence rates.
- An understanding of the theoretical explanations for female offending and victimization and if/how they differ from males.
- An understanding of the experiences of women as victims, offenders, and professionals in the CJS and if/how they differ from males.
- A survey of the various professional roles in which women serve within the criminal justice system.
- Understanding of the intersection of race and social class with gender, and how discrimination based on these characteristics may compound sexism that women face in the criminal justice system.
Required Texts and Readings:

   J. Raphael
   Northeastern University Press

2. A Woman Doing Life: Notes from a Prison for Women
   E. George
   ISBN: 978-0-19973475-7
   Oxford University Press

3. Women and the Criminal Justice System, 3rd Ed.
   K. Stuart van Wormer, C. Bartollas
   ISBN: 978-0-13-700878-0
   Prentice Hall

*In addition to the reading associated with these texts, see Blackboard each week for videos and readings.

Course Policies:

1. Attendance: Attendance and punctuality are required for each class meeting and you are expected to attend the entire time for each class meeting to receive credit for attendance. As there are very few meetings in summer session courses, each absence will result in a seven-point deduction from the final course grade. More than two absences will result in automatic failure. Please note that you will receive a grade of zero for quizzes and in-class writing assignments when you are absent and no make-up work will be given.

2. Class Participation: This course is designed to challenge you. Participation in this course involves the commitment of time outside of class for reading and preparation as well as regular contributions during each class discussion, both of which are crucial to your success in the course. An active learning approach will be utilized in this course. That is, we will conduct each class in a seminar format where you are expected to come to class each meeting having completed the assigned reading and spent a fair amount of time pondering the material to include questions, critical reactions, and other observations. While you are expected to take the initiative with your contributions, I will also call on students randomly from time to time and you will be expected to respond appropriately with opinions, reactions, answers, or other commentary to the questions asked or issues raised. While a certain degree of lecture is required on certain topics, the majority of the class each meeting will be devoted to stimulating discussion based on your reading and consideration of the material beforehand.
Poor attendance and/or participation will have a negative impact on your grade. A student with perfect attendance who does not participate in class discussions will not receive full credit for the attendance/participation portion of the course grade.

3. Student Disability Services: A student with a disability that qualifies for accommodations should contact Sarah Mead Smith, Director of Disability Services at 865-2990 (Academic Resource Center, Room 405, Monroe Hall). A student wishing to receive test accommodations (e.g., extended test time) should provide the instructor with an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services in advance of the scheduled test date.

4. Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty of any sort is prohibited in this course and a zero-tolerance policy will be enforced. A student who violates this policy will receive an “F” for their final semester grade. For complete details on standards, penalties, and appeals procedures, see “Integrity of Scholarship and Grades,” Loyola University Undergraduate Bulletin.

5. Make-up, Late, or Incomplete Work: All assignments and exams must be complete and submitted on time. Late or incomplete work will not be accepted and credit will not be earned for work not completed and submitted on time. If you must miss an exam due to extenuating circumstances, you must notify me as soon as possible to discuss your circumstances and a decision will be made accordingly as to whether a make-up exam will be administered.

6. Laptops/cell phones/other gadgets: Laptops will not be allowed in class for note taking or any other reasons. Please do not turn them on in class, except under certain circumstances, such as in group sessions, or during discussions when spontaneous research needs warrant the use of a laptop (I’ll decide when these are needed). Please turn off all cell phones and laptops prior to class. To be clear- the use of electronics are forbidden in this class and failure to adhere to this policy will result in an absence for the class meeting when the policy is violated.

7. Office hours are provided to give you the opportunity to address questions, concerns, and any issues you may wish to discuss about the course. Please do not hesitate to request an appointment for a meeting, especially if you are experiencing a problem with the course. The sooner we address a problem, particularly in our short eight-week format, the more likely we are to resolve it favorably.

8. Course syllabus- It is important for you to keep up with your syllabus and refer to it regularly to keep up with the course schedule and policies. If you lose your syllabus, e-mail me and I’ll send a copy to you via e-mail. Losing your syllabus does not constitute an excuse for missing assignments or noncompliance with course policies.

9. Blackboard will be utilized for communication concerning assignments, announcements, and feedback. Please be sure to check the class site daily to stay informed and to stay on track with your assigned reading, as well as the other materials posted under course materials.

10. Respect and sensitivity – We will be discussing an array of interesting topics throughout this course, many of which may be considered controversial. Not everyone will have the same opinion on every topic, yet everyone’s opinions, thoughts and feelings will be equally valued. A
central goal of mine is to create a mature, safe, stimulating environment in which everyone is encouraged to share their informed thoughts on the material. Students should feel free to participate without intimidation and should not be made to feel inferior because of their views. Anyone who is purposefully disrespectful to the professor or another student will be asked to leave the class and counted absent for that class meeting.

Assignments:

**Weekly quizzes** - In lieu of mid-term and final exams, a quiz will be given at the beginning of each class each week to assess your completion of the weekly reading/viewing and understanding of the material, beginning with week two. The quizzes will contain multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions, just like regular exams. The average of these weekly quizzes will comprise 20% of the course grade.

**In-class participation and pre-class preparation** – 50% of your course grade will be determined from your meaningful participation in class each week and my assessment of your preparation for each meeting. A word of caution: it is glaringly clear when a student has not completed readings, other assignments. Take the time to prepare and complete all assignments outside of class.

**Book analyses**: After reading “Saving Bernice” and “A Woman Doing Life” you are to write a 4 to 6 page analysis paper, due on the evening in which we will discuss these books (see weekly guide). This analysis is not a book review where you summarize the contents of the book. It is also not an opinion paper where you criticize or praise the author’s work without grounding your observations in a thoughtful analysis of the research methods and interpretation. You should spend absolutely no more than 2 paragraphs summarizing what the book was about. The majority of your paper should essentially discuss how the book pertains to the overall theme of the course. How did the content of the book compare to the other things you have read and discussed in class? Reserve the last page for your personal feedback on the book and how it has affected your views. The paper should be 4 to 6 pages, typed and double spaced, and include a cover page with your name, the name of the book, and the name of the course. These analyses will comprise 15% of your final course grade each.

**Grading Policy**: The breakdown of the overall course grade is as follows:

Weekly quizzes: 20%
Participation/preparedness: 50%
Book analyses: 30%

The breakdown of the **final course grade** is as follows:
A = 93-100  A- = 90-92  
B+ = 87-89  B = 83-86  B- = 80-82  
C+ = 77-79  C = 73-76  C- = 70-72  
D+ = 67-69  D = 63-66  F = 59 or below
**Weekly Schedule Guide:**

Week 1 (June 7): Course introduction, Females in Crime and Criminology

Weeks 2 and 3 (June 14 and 21): The Female Offender  
“A Woman Doing Life” book analysis due June 21

Week 4 (June 28): The Female Offender continued, The Female Victim Introduction

Week 5: NO CLASS- University holiday

Weeks 6 and 7 (July 12 and 19): The Female Victim continued  
“Saving Bernice” book analysis due July 12

Week 8 (July 26): Women as Professionals in the Criminal Justice System

August 2 (final exam day): Course Wrap-up: Tying it all together