SOCIOLOGY 389: GENDER, LAW, AND CRIME

Winter 2015
Chernoff Room 117
Tuesdays 10-11:30 AM and Thursdays 8:30-10 AM

Professor: Dr. F. Kay
Telephone: 613-533-6000 (ext. 74486)
Office: Room D-527 Mackintosh-Corry Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays noon to 2:00 PM, or by appointment
E-mail: kayf@queensu.ca

DESCRIPTION:

This course offers an overview of sociological theory and research on gender, law, and crime. We investigate gender differences in offending, victimization, and criminal justice processing. The course starts by critically examining the social facts surrounding the measurement, extent, and distribution of crime with reference to gender comparisons. Next, we study the principal sociological explanations of gender differences in criminal behavior. These theories provide conceptual tools for the analysis of specific types of crime, including: gang-related crime, prostitution, intimate partner violence, homicide and femicide, and criminal harassment. In the final section of the course, we examine gender in relation to law, with attention to courts and sentencing patterns, punishment, and prisons. Course readings and lectures draw on contemporary research from a variety of theoretical perspectives, some of which present very different – and at times conflicting – ways to think about the relationship between gender and crime. Students are encouraged to think critically about – and to consider the strengths and limitations of – all of the perspectives explored in the course.

PREREQUISITES:
Sociology 122 (Introductory Sociology), Sociology 275 (Theories of Social Deviance)
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To understand how crime is currently measured and the extent and distribution of criminal behavior according to these measures. An understanding of gender variations across these forms of data is critical.
- To gain a working knowledge of the key sociological theories of gender differences in the nature and occurrence of crime.
- To apply the conceptual tools of these theories to selected case studies and empirical research studies.
- To critically evaluate concrete policy responses to crime (with attention to the gendered variations in criminal offending and victimization).

REQUIRED READING:


Plus, a selection of research articles (listed in course schedule)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

10% Participation
10% Quiz
20% Test
20% Essay
40% Final examination
COURSE SCHEDULE
SOCIOLOGY 389: GENDER, LAW & CRIME

Week 1: WELCOME AND THE BIG PICTURE: GENDERED TRENDS IN CRIME
15 September: Lecture
17 September: Discussion forum

Required Readings:

H & K, chapters 1 & 5


Week 2: CONTROL THEORIES & FAMILIES
22 September: Lecture
24 September: Discussion forum

Required Readings:


Week 3: GENDER ROLES & PEER INFLUENCES
29 September: Lecture and in-class quiz (30 minutes)
1 October: Discussion forum

Required Readings:


Week 4: GENDER & STRAIN VARIANTS
6 October: Lecture
8 October: Discussion forum

Required Readings:

H & K, chapter 2


Week 5: FEMINIST EXPLANATIONS
13 October: Lecture
15 October: Discussion forum

Required Readings:

H & K, Chapter 10


Week 6:
20 October: In-class test (1 hour)
22 October: Discussion forum – focus: essay assignment

Week 7: GENDER, STRUCTURAL DISADVANTAGE & GANGS
27 October: Lecture
29 October: Discussion forum

Required Readings:

H & K, chapter 11


**Week 8: PROSTITUTION**  
3 November: Lecture  
5 November: Discussion forum

**Required Readings:**


**Week 9: VIOLENT VICTIMIZATION**  
10 November: Lecture  
12 November: Discussion forum

**Required Readings:**

H & K, chapters 4 & 7-8


**Week 10: CRIMINAL HARASSMENT**  
17 November: lecture  
19 November: discussion forum  
Essay due in discussion forum

**Required Readings:**

H & K, Chapters 6 & 9


Week 11: Gender, Courts & the Law
24 November: Lecture
26 November: Discussion forum

Required Readings:

H & K, chapter 3


Week 12: Probation, Parole & Prisons
1 December: Lecture
3 December: Discussion forum

Required Readings:


December: Final Examination

The final exam is 3 hours long and consists of a mixed format: multiple choice and essay questions.
Essay Assignment

Using Holly Johnson and Myrna Dawson’s book, Violence against Women in Canada (2011 Oxford University Press), as a starting point, address the following two questions:

1) In your assessment, which policies offer the most promise to curb violence against women?
2) What new directions do you propose to advance research on intimate partner violence?

Your 10 page double-spaced typed (minimum font size 12 and margins of 2 cm or greater) essay assignment is due in discussion forum on the 19th November, 2015. Late work will be accepted until 25th November 2015 without penalty. After one week (26th November), assignments will not be accepted without official documentation.

Essays submitted on time will receive written comments and will be returned within 2 weeks (in the final discussion forum). Essays submitted late will be graded and ready for pick up after classes end (early December) from your assigned teaching assistant.

Students are responsible to keep an electronic copy of their essay on a secure storage device (USB or external hard drive).

The cover page of the essay should include the following information: a title for your essay, your name, student number, course number and title, professor’s name, and date. Staple essays at the top left corner (no folders, binders, clamps).

The bibliography should be prepared according to A.S.A. guidelines. The reference list is to be single-spaced.

The essay should be based on research from major journals in sociology, criminology, and criminal justice. You may also draw on books, book chapters, and other scholarly sources. Quality is stressed over quantity, but the target length is 10 typed pages, not including references, title page, and any appendices (You may include up to 5 tables or graphs).

The essay will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

(a) Pertinence: The literature reviewed is relevant, accurate, and current. Citations are used to substantiate presentations of ideas and issues.

(b) Purposefulness: The paper identifies central ideas and follows them throughout the paper. The paper develops with a clear sense of introduction, purpose, development, and conclusion.
(c) **Organization**: The paper is organized into clear sections demarcated by headings and/or paragraph divisions. The heading organization is consistent with the purpose of the paper.

(d) **Writing Style & Grammar**: Formal, scientific writing style (ASA) is used with correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
**CLASS POLICIES:**

**Exam and Term Paper Policies:**

- All requests for deferral of an examination or essay extension due to health reasons or family emergency (such as death of a family member) must be accompanied by official written documentation.
- Deferred essays and missed exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting an extension. Without appropriate documentation or a university valid reason for missing an exam, you will receive a zero for that portion of your grade.
- Examination dates are noted in the course schedule (attached). If you have other plans for these dates (weddings, holidays, etc.), you cannot take this course at this time. If others have made plans for you (your parents booked your ticket without telling you), you will not be allowed to reschedule your exam.
- There are no re-writes on any exams in this class and no extra credit work will be given. If you anticipate any difficulties meeting any of the class requirements, please make sure to discuss your concerns with the professor before the deadline.

**Academic Accommodation:**

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Counseling and Disability Resource Centre. Academic accommodation letters must be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student’s responsibility to register with the Counseling and Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

**Class Notes:** If you miss class, borrow notes from one of your classmates. Try early on in the course to set up a “buddy system” to help each other in the event of missed classes. See the teaching assistants or professor to clarify anything you do not understand. I am happy to assign supplementary readings in the event of missed classes.

**E-mail:** E-mail messages may be used to schedule appointments. Questions about course content and essay/exam extensions need to take place in person (with myself or your teaching assistant). When sending e-mail messages, remember to address the recipient by name, sign the e-mail note with your name, use your Queen’s e-mail account, and use full words and sentences for clarity of expression.

**Civil Behavior:** Do not text, shop on-line, or use facebook/instagram/tweet during class. This disrupts other students’ learning and is disrespectful to me.

**Academic Integrity:** You do not need to cheat. You do not want to cheat. Bad things will happen if you cheat. Do not cheat.

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see [www.academicintegrity.org/icaicourses-2.php](http://www.academicintegrity.org/icaicourses-2.php)). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive (See [http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/adademic-integrity](http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/adademic-integrity)). Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas” essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities at [http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/policies/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html](http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/policies/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html)).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (See Academic Regulation 1) on the Arts and Science website (see [http://www.queensu.ca/calendars/artsci/Regulation_1_Academic_Integrity.html](http://www.queensu.ca/calendars/artsci/Regulation_1_Academic_Integrity.html)), and from the instructor of this course.
Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen’s. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the University.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments and exams from a public place (e.g., outside a professor’s office, the department office, etc.) or posting grades on office doors or via e-mail. Examination results must be returned to students individually. Students can retrieve their tests and essays from their Teaching Assistant in class and at discussion forums.

Copyright of Course Materials (lectures and power point slides):
This material is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in SOCY389 during the fall 2015 semester. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated more widely. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and also constitutes a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate’s Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

Useful websites:
- Peer Academic Support Service: http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/pass
- Faculty of Arts & Science Advising Services & Resources: http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/advising/index.html
- Health, Counseling & Disability Services: http://www.queensu-hcds.org/
- The Ban Righ Foundation: http://www.queensu.ca/dsao/ind/banrighmain.htm
- International Centre: http://www.queensu.ca/quic
- The Writing Centre: http://queensu.ca/writingcentre
- Arts & Science Undergraduate Society (ASUS): www.asus.queensu.ca/acsfacts

Queen’s Official Grade Conversion Scale

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