SOCIOLOGY 389: GENDER, LAW, AND CRIME

Winter 2015
Chernoff Room 117
Mondays 2:30-4:00 PM and Thursdays 4:00-5:30 PM

Professor: Dr. F. Kay
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Office: Room D-527 Mackintosh-Corry Hall
Office Hours: Mondays 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, such as: gang-related crime, prostitution and human trafficking, domestic violence, homicide and femicide, stalking, and sexual assault. 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 from 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)
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 (see attached list in course outline).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

35% Essay assignment
65% Final examination

RESOURCES ON LINE:
The Moodle site for Sociology 389 offers the following resources:

1. course syllabus;
2. essay assignment;
3. journal articles (required readings);
4. additional recommended readings (files include: gender and crime; criminology background; topic-by-topic in Socy389);
5. occasional power-point slides from the class;
6. optional assignments to help guide your learning; and,
7. study tips for success.
COURSE SCHEDULE
SOCIOLOGY 389: GENDER, LAW & CRIME

WEEK 1:
5 & 8 January 2015: WELCOME AND THE BIG PICTURE

Required Readings:

Britton, Chapters 1 & 2.


WEEK 2:
12 & 15 January 2015: SOCIAL CONTROL, SELF CONTROL & POWER-CONTROL THEORIES

Required Readings:


Boyd (ed.), Chapter 7: Biological approaches.

WEEK 3:
19 & 22 January 2015: GENDER ROLES, DIFFERENTIAL ASSOCIATION, & PEER EFFECTS

Required Readings:


Boyd (ed.), Chapter 8: Psychological approaches.

**WEEK 4:**
**26 & 29 January 2015: GENDER & STRAIN VARIANTS**

**Required Readings:**


**WEEK 5:**
**2 & 5 February 2015: FEMINIST EXPLANATIONS OF THE GENDER GAP IN CRIME**

Essay (Book analysis) is due 2 February 2015 by noon uploaded to Moodle.

**Required Readings:**


- Britton, Chapter 2.


**WEEK 6:**
**9 & 12 February 2015: GENDER, STRUCTURAL DISADVANTAGE AND URBAN CRIME**

**Required Readings:**

- Boyd (ed.), Chapter 15: Property Crime & Chapter 17: Organized crime and gangs


**WEEK 7:**
16 February 2015: Family Day (no classes)
17-20 February 2015: READING WEEK (No assigned readings. No classes held this week)

**WEEK 8:**
23 & 26 February 2015: PROSTITUTION & HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**Required Readings:**

Boyd (ed.), Chapter 16: Crimes of morality.


**WEEK 9:**
2 & 5 March 2015: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE & HOMICIDE

**Required Readings:**


Britton, Chapter 4.


**WEEK 10:**
9 & 12 March 2015: STALKING & SEXUAL ASSAULT

**Required Readings:**

Boyd (ed.), Chapter 14: Sexual offenses and problematic sexual interests

Britton, Chapter 4: Gender and crime victimization

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WEEK 11:
16 & 19 March 2015: GENDER, COURTS, AND THE LAW

Required Readings:

Britton, Chapters 3 & 5.


WEEK 12:
23 & 26 March 2015: SENTENCING & PUNISHMENT

Required Readings:


WEEK 13:
30 March & 2 April 2015: LIFE COURSE & DESISTANCE

Required Readings:

Boyd (ed.), Chapter 10: Gender and crime.

Britton, Chapter 6.


9-25 April 2015   FINAL EXAMINATIONS

The final exam is 3 hours long and consists of short answer and essay questions.
READ THE SMALL PRINT: CLASS POLICIES AND INFORMATION:

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.

E-mail: E-mail messages may be used to schedule appointments. Questions about course content and essay/exam extensions need to take place in my office. 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 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.

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). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. 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)

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/arts/ sites/default/files/Academic%20Regulations.pdf), 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.

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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.

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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