

**The University of Western Ontario
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY 3358G/001: WOMEN & CRIME
Winter 2018**

Professor: Kim Ashby
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Class Times: Tuesdays - 2:30- 5:30pm
Class Room: 3010SSC
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30 to 1:30pm or by appointment.
OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>
TA:
E-Mail:



COURSE DESCRIPTION

In examining women's criminality, the practice has often been to draw upon established criminological theories which were developed based on male-centered research. Women were either invisible in these theories, or an "add women and stir" approach was adopted. These early theories failed to assess the structural and gendered features of our society and how these factors impact on the roles of men and women, and how and why women do crime. In doing crime, women's pathways from victimization to crime, and their experiences with the criminal justice system will be closely examined. Key to our examination of women's crime will be the adoption of feminist criminological theories as we analyze the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, and class inequality. Successful engagement with these intersections is based on understandings of how social categories, such as gender, are created and maintained. Within the course, students will develop concrete understandings of these issues through praxis (the marriage of theory with practical experience).

Pre-requisites:

Third or fourth year standing in any module in the Department of Sociology.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following books are **required** and available at the University Bookstore.

1. Gillian Balfour and Elizabeth Comack, eds. 2014. Criminalizing Women. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.
2. Kelly Gorkoff and Jane Runner, eds. 2003. Being Heard. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.
3. Kelly Hannah-Moffat and Margaret Shaw, eds. 2000. An Ideal Prison? Critical Essays on Women's Imprisonment in Canada. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.

**Note: In addition, further required readings have been uploaded to 'Article Readings' on the class' OWL homepage.

Learning Outcomes

The successful student will be able to:

- Identify and explain the criminological perspectives and feminist theories of women's involvement in types of crime.
- Analyze the 'pathway to crime' as a pattern that is affected by age, gender, race and class for females.
- Develop and implement an 'activist volunteer' project for a local community organization working with marginalized and/or criminalized women.
- Write a reflective paper which will critically analyze their application of course concepts and theories to their experiences during their activist volunteer project.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

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| • Project Description | 5% |
| • Journal (2 assessments) | 15% |
| • Research Paper | 35% |
| • Final Exam | 25% |
| • Participation (in class & at placement) | 20% |

Course Attendance Requirements:

With the exception of legitimate medical/personal excuses (documentation required to be submitted) students are expected to attend at least **80%** of the class meetings for this course. A passing grade in the course cannot be obtained without meeting this attendance requirement.

Plagiarism

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking

All reaction papers will be uploaded to Turnitin.com on the class web site. These papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Midterm – In-class (25%)

The Midterm exam may be composed of multiple-choice, short answer, matching and/or essay. The midterm will be **March 20th**. The midterm will be 2 hours long.

Scantron Exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Missed Exams and Late Assignments

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office at least one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam. If you miss an exam date or the due date for an assignment due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification of and documentation for the reasons for your circumstances to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date the assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a makeup exam or hand in your assignment at a later date.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Grades and Grading

Grades (except the final year-end mark) will be posted to the OWL site as they become available. This website will also give the criteria that the TA will use to assign a grade to papers.

Grade Distributions

The Department of Sociology at the University of Western Ontario has adopted grade distribution guidelines which all instructors are required to follow. For Sociology courses at the 3300 level:

- "A"s are not to exceed "B"s and
- Means must be in the range of 70-74%

Policy on Make-Up Exams

Exam dates, once they have been set by the Registrar's Office, are firm and will not be changed. Make-up exams are offered only in the most compelling of circumstances, such as serious illness or a death in the family. Be advised that if you miss an exam you run a serious risk of getting a zero on that component of your grade. To be considered for a make-up, you must:

- Notify Professor Luton of your circumstances **BEFORE** the scheduled exam **and**
- Obtain clear documentation of your illness and file that documentation with the Academic Counseling office of your faculty.

Once these things have been done, and once Luton has been notified by your Academic Counseling office that the documentation has been examined and found to be legitimate, then a date for a make-up will be set. Sociology department policy is that all make-ups will be scheduled for a Friday, and a failure to take the make-up at the assigned date and time will result in a zero being earned.

Email

Every student has been assigned a UWO email address by the Registrar's office. If you have not as yet activated that account, you should do so immediately. The ITS desk in the Western Service building can help you with questions about your account.

Every so often Professor Ashby will be sending out mass emails to the class and you are responsible for any information (about exams, your grade, missed assignments, etc.) in those emails. This means that you are expected to check your UWO account at least once a week. If you have your UWO mail forwarded to another account (Hotmail, Yahoo, etc), it is your responsibility to insure that messages do not bounce back because your disk quota is full.

If you have any questions about the course, the quickest way to have them answered is to contact our TA or Professor Ashby via email. Where possible, each message will be answered within 2 working days. Please check this syllabus or the course homepage on WebCT before writing to see if the information you want is posted there. When emailing, please list the course and course number in the subject line (**W&C 3358**).

Because an active UWO email account is needed to access OWL, and because the use of OWL is an important part of this course, **only** questions sent using your uwo account will receive an answer.

HOW TO CONTACT PROFESSOR ASHBY

Please feel free to come by during my office hours to discuss any questions you have regarding the course or simply to chat about some issue raised in class. If you e-mail me, I will reply to you within 24-48 hours, only if you use your UWO account. However, I do not read e-mails on the weekends.