

**CRIJ 3340.03: GENDER AND CRIME**  
**Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology**  
**Spring 2018**  
**ONLINE**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will provide an overview of the relationship between gender and crime. Specifically, students will learn how gender impacts criminal behavior in terms of: (1) criminal offending, (2) criminal processing, (3) victimization, and (4) working in the criminal justice system. This class will also provide detail regarding the theoretical foundations that explain the role of gender in understanding the facets of crime, victimization, criminology, and the criminal justice system.

**REQUIRED TEXTS\***

Belknap, Joanne. (2001). *The invisible woman: Crime, gender, and justice* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

Walsh, Anthony and Vaske, Jamie C. (2011). *Feminist criminology through a biosocial lens*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

**\*In addition to these required texts, specific journal articles or other readings may be required for specific topics. Please see the course outline for all required readings by lecture topic.**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This semester we will focus on accomplishing a few particular goals:

1. You should walk away from this course with a good understanding of the **factual knowledge** of how gender and crime intersects.
2. You should walk away from this course having learned about the **basic fundamental principles and theories** in the student of gender, crime, criminology, and criminal justice.
3. You should also have learned how to **use and apply course material** as you think about gender and criminal justice in the “real world.”

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students are expected to read the required reading, ask questions, and participate in class discussions. Your grade will be based on four exams and four writing assignments. Each exam will cover all material assigned in course readings, online videos, and information discussed in lectures. Your grade is based on four exams (worth 25 points each), four writing assignments (worth 25 points each) and three discussions (worth 10 points each). Each exam, assignment, and discussion is weighted equally in the final calculation of your grade. The course is worth a total of 230 points.

## **GRADING SCALE**

**Exams:** 100 points (4 exams worth 25 points each)

**Writing Assignments:** 100 points (4 assignments worth 25 points each)

**Discussions:** 30 points (3 discussions worth 10 points each)

**Total Possible: 230 points**

**A** = 89.5 – 100%

**B** = 79.5 – 89.4 %

**C** = 69.5 – 79.4%

**D** = 59.5 – 69.4%

**F** = 59.4 % or less

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

This course requires regular, dependable access to the Internet, Microsoft Word, and Adobe PDF files. If you do not know how to use Blackboard or if you encounter technical difficulties with the course website, contact the SHSU technical team ASAP. They are staffed Monday through Saturday (except for Holidays) from 7am to Midnight. They can be reached by email ([delta@shsu.edu](mailto:delta@shsu.edu)) or phone (936-294-2780). Updated information can be found in the “Need Help” link on the left navigation bar on Blackboard.

## **TRIGGER WARNING**

It is important to keep in mind that victimization is something that affects millions of people nationwide. It is likely that students in this classroom may have had experiences with or know someone who has experienced some form of victimization. As we discuss and explore the etiology of victimization, the definitions, illustrations, and examples of victimization we talk about may illicit discomfort and/or emotional responses. We call these “triggers.” Please note that this course is made up of readings, discussions, and exercises that involve extraordinarily sensitive material being presented in lecture or film. Please plan accordingly.

## **MANDATORY REPORTING FOR TITLE IX**

As a professor at SHSU, I am under federal obligation to relay information regarding victimization disclosure to our University’s Title IX Coordinator for the purpose of ensuring appropriate services and accommodations are provided to anyone who has disclosed victimization. It is important that you know, should you disclose ongoing or past victimization in writing assignments, during class, or to me personally, I am legally obliged to relay this information to the Dean of Students’ Office.

## **MANDATORY REPORTING OF KNOWN OR SUSPECTED ABUSE OF OTHERS**

Texas law says anyone who thinks a child, or person 65 years or older, or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited must report it to DFPS. A person who reports abuse in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) keeps the name of the person making the report confidential. Anyone who does not report suspected abuse can be held liable for a misdemeanor or felony. Time frames for investigating reports are based on the severity of the allegations. Reporting suspected abuse makes it possible for a family to get help. Here is a link to allow for such reporting and for further information:

[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact\\_Us/report\\_abuse.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp)

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

It is important to understand that this is NOT an entirely self-paced class. There are pertinent deadlines and students are expected to make routine progress. It will be very likely MORE difficult to learn the material in this class if you have only devoted a short time to the class and try to cram a week’s worth of material into a single day. Please make a strong attempt to work on the class material and log into the class throughout the semester. You will probably learn the material more effectively and you may have a more enjoyable experience with the class.

Regular and ongoing participation is required in this course. You are expected to check the course throughout each week. Among other things, this means that exams **MUST** be completed during the schedule time and that assignments/discussion board posts must be completed within the specified time and by the posted due date. Make up exams and assignments will **NOT** be given unless the student notifies the professor *prior to* the absence. Rare situations arise when it is impossible to notify the professor in advance. If this occurs, the student must provide the professor with a typed description of the reason for the absence. This must be provided to the professor within five school days of the absence. Verbal excuses will not be accepted. The professor may request documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, police report, etc.) to excuse an absence that has conflicted with a scheduled test or assignment/discussion post. Attendance is required and critical to your performance in this class. Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 8004001: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

### **EXAM POLICY**

There are four exams in this course. Each exam is worth 25 points and will include multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank questions. There are a total of 100 available points for these four exams. The exams will close at 11:59pm on the day that it is due (see schedule below). There is a time limit for each exam. The clock starts once you begin the test. The exams are set to force completion so if you log out or lose your Internet connection, the clock keeps ticking and will submit your test when the time is up.

Make sure to have a dependable, hard-wired Internet connection when taking exams. There will be **NO** make-up exams unless there is an extreme documented medical or personal emergency. In the case of such an emergency, the instructor must be notified *prior to* the absence. If early notification is not possible, students must make sure that they contact the professor as soon as they are safely able to do so. Students must notify the professor within 5 calendar days from the date the exam is due to be eligible for a make-up exam. Early notification and/or proper documentation will not necessarily guarantee that a make-up exam will be granted. *If the student misses the make-up exam, they will receive a zero for that exam without exception.*

### **RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY**

In accordance with SHSU policy 861001, students who wish to be absent from class on a religious holy day may provide a written statement to the professor concerning their absence. For a complete list of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

### **ACADEMIC (ONLINE) ETIQUETTE**

In this class, you are required to conduct yourself in an appropriate, responsible, and professional manner. The objective in an online discussion is to be collaborative, *not* combative. Be sure to proofread your responses carefully before you post them to make sure that they will not be offensive to others. Use discussions to develop your skills in collaboration and teamwork. Treat the discussion areas as a creative environment where you and your classmates can ask questions, express opinions, revise opinions, and take positions just as you would in a more "traditional" classroom setting. Do not use "text" shorthand or any other inappropriate abbreviations – as stated earlier, I expect properly-composed, grammatically correct discussion posts and your grade for each post will reflect this expectation.

### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For a complete listing of the University policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>  
For information on services provided, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/HONESTY

Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating, falsification, fabrication, multiple submissions, plagiarism, and abuse of academic materials will not be tolerated. Students caught exhibiting such behavior will receive a **failing grade in the course**. If you have any questions with regard to what constitutes academic dishonesty (e.g., what is plagiarism/cheating?), please see me.

For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

## DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

For each discussion post, you will be provided with a description and a set of instructions (e.g., view a link to a video and write a response to a set of questions). In preparing your discussion posts, make sure that you are writing in academic voice, are thorough in your points, and are making an intellectual contribution. Cite your work and do not make assertions that you cannot provide evidence for. **Your response posts must contain observations that are substantively relevant to the topic in order to get credit. You will also be deducted points for improper grammar, lack of punctuation, or poorly constructed sentences.** Please pay careful attention to ensure you earn the maximum possible points.

## ADDITIONAL POLICIES

1. **ALL** emails to the professor must be written in a formal style to receive a response. This means that you must include a greeting and sign the email.
2. Class grades are **NOT** negotiable. Any attempt to negotiate grades (e.g., coaxing, bargaining, cajoling) will be considered a violation of academic integrity and will be forwarded to the Dean of the College.
3. I am available via email, but if you contact me electronically after 5:00pm, on the weekend or a University holiday, please expect a response the next working business day after 8:00am.
4. If you find yourself overwhelmed with feelings, or are in an abusive relationship, I urge you to take one or more of the following actions:
  - ? Call a trusted family member. Call a trusted friend.
  - ? Talk with a trusted mentor or professor on campus.
  - ? Seek support, help, or assistance from any of the following local resources:
    - o **SHSU Counseling Center** 936.294.1720 (<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel>)
    - o the **SAAFE House** (for sexual assault and intimate partner violence) 24-hour crisis line 936.291.3369 or 936.327.2513
    - o **National Domestic Violence Hotline** 1.800.799.SAFE
    - o **24-hour national suicide hotline** 1.800.273.8255
    - o Students may also schedule counseling with the campus **Psychological Services Center** 936.294.1210 (<http://www.shsu.edu/~clinpsy/psc/>).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### UNIT I: GENDER

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#### LECTURE 1

1/17-1/21

#### Course Overview, “Meet and Greet” Discussion 1

**Readings:** Syllabus and “Professor/Graduate Assistant Information”

**Assignment:** “Meet and Greet” - Discussion 1 (Opens Wednesday, 1/17 and closes Sunday, 1/21 at 11:59p)

**Due Dates:**

Self-introduction post for Discussion 1 due by Friday 1/19 at 11:59p.

Two Response posts for Discussion 1 due by Sunday, 1/21 at 11:59p.

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**LECTURE 2****1/22-1/28****What is gender?**

**Readings:** Belknap ch. 1; Walsh & Vaske, ch.1; Lorber, 1994 (Blackboard link)

**Assignment:** “Sex Roles” - Writing Assignment 1a and 1b  
(opens Monday, 1/22 and closes Sunday, 1/28 at 11:59p)

**Due Dates:**

Writing Assignment 1a due Wednesday, 1/24 by 11:59p.

Writing Assignment 1b due Sunday, 1/28 by 11:59p.

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**LECTURE 3****1/29-2/4****Legal-Historical Context of Gender and Crime**

**Readings:** Walsh and Vaske, Chs. 5-6

**Assignment:** “Feminism” - Writing Assignment 2  
(opens Monday, 1/29 and closes on Sunday, 2/4 at 11:59p)

**Due dates:**

Writing Assignment 2 Due Sunday, 2/4 by 11:59p.

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**LECTURE 4****2/5-2/11****EXAM 1 (Opens Friday, 2/9 and closes Sunday, 2/11 at 11:59p)**

**Assignment:** Study for and complete Exam 1

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***UNIT II: THEORY AND CRIME TYPES***

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**LECTURE 5****2/12-2/18****Gender and Criminological Theory**

**Readings:** Belknap, Ch.2; Walsh & Vaske: Finish reading the book

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**LECTURE 6****2/19-2/25****Gender, Public Order, and Property Crime**

**Readings:** Belknap, Ch. 3;

**Assignment (TW):** *Documentary:* “Prostitution in America: Working Girls Speak (BB link) “Prostitution in the US” – Writing Assignment 3  
(opens Monday, 2/19 and closes Sunday, 2/25 at 11:59p)

**Due Dates:**

Writing Assignment 3 due Sunday, 2/25 by 11:59p.

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**LECTURE 7****2/26-3/4****Gender and Violence**

**Readings:** Belknap, Ch. 3; Polk, 1999; Griffiths et al., 2011  
(BB links)

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**LECTURE 8****3/5-3/11****EXAM 2** (opens Friday, 3/9 and closes Sunday, 3/11 at 11:59p)

**Assignment:** Study for and complete Exam 2

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***UNIT III: CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESSING***

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**3/12 – 3/18****SPRING RECESS!!!**

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**LECTURE 9****3/19-3/25****Arrest and Sentencing**

**Readings:** Belknap, Ch. 4

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**LECTURE 10****3/26-3/30****Prison and Community Corrections**

**Note:** This is a short week due to the University closure at noon on Good Friday. Please plan accordingly

**Readings:** Belknap, Ch.5; Gaarder, Rodriguez, & Zatz, 2004; Rasche, 2012  
(BB Links)

**Assignment:** *Ted Talk:* Emily Salisbury, *Judging Societies by Women's Prisons*

“The Prison Experience” - Discussion 2

(opens Monday, 3/26 and closes Friday, 3/30 by 12:00p: NOON on Friday)

**Due Dates:**

Original post due Tuesday, 3/27 by 11:59p.

Two response posts due Friday, 3/30 by 12:00p: NOON on Friday.

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**LECTURE 11****4/2-4/8****Gender in the Criminal Justice Professions**

**Readings:** Belknap, Chs. 9-11; Prokos & Padavic, 2002 (BB Link)

**Assignment:** “Gender and Career Aspirations” – Writing Assignment 4  
(opens Monday, 4/2 and closes Sunday, 4/8 by 11:59p)

**Due Dates:**

Writing Assignment 4 due Sunday, 4/8 by 11:59p.

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LECTURE 12

4/9-4/15

**EXAM 3** (Opens Friday, 4/13 and closes Sunday, 4/15 at 11:59p)

**Assignment:** Study for and complete Exam 3

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***UNIT IV: GENDER AND VICTIMIZATION***

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LECTURE 13

4/16-4/22

**Gendered nature of victimization**

**Readings:** Belknap, Ch. 6

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LECTURE 14

4/23-4/29

**Sexual Victimization (TW)**

**Readings:** Belknap, Ch. 7, Crime in Texas, Female Victims of Sexual Assault; Sexual Assault: An Overview; UCR definition of Rape

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LECTURE 15

4/30-5/6

**Intimate and Family Violence (TW)**

**Readings:** Belknap, Chs. 8 and 12

**Assignment:** “Music/Media and IPV” – Discussion 3  
(opens Monday, 4/30 and closes Sunday, 5/6 at 11:59p)

**Due Date:**

Original Post due Wednesday, 5/2 by 11:59p.

Two response posts due Sunday, 5/6 by 11:59p.

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LECTURE 16

5/7-5/10

**Exam 4** (Opens Tuesday, 5/8 and closes Thursday, 5/10 at 11:59p)

**Assignment:** Study for and complete Exam 4