Women and Crime
Women’s Studies/Sociology 435

Dr. Katherine Irwin
Saunders Hall #238
Office Hours: Mon and Wed 1:30-2:30. Please call first before stopping by my office hours. I’ll leave a message on my office phone if I need to cancel office hours that day.
Office Phone: 808-956-7257
Home Phone: 808-394-1407 (please do not call after 10pm or before 8am)
Kirwin@hawaii.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS
This course is designed to guide students through the literature on female offending as well as women’s and girls’ involvement in and experiences within the justice system. We will also touch upon the gendered experiences of working in justice institutions. Although gender and social control will be the primary framework for this course, we will also examine how gender combines with class, race, and ethnicity in theory and in female offending.

The first section of the course will cover key concepts and perspectives in gender, social control, and criminological theory. We will also examine some of the methodological and ethical issues inherent in researching women, girls, and crime. The second section of the course is dedicated to understanding forms of female offending, victimization of girls and women, and women’s and girls’ experiences in the criminal justice system. During this section of the course you will be introduced to some of the key findings in the research in each of these areas. During the last section of the course we will look at women as workers in criminal justice fields and some of the contemporary innovations in the areas of the social construction of gender and crime and intersections among gender, race, and class in crime and criminal justice.

ASSIGNMENTS
There are several assignments for this class that are designed to test and hone different skills. Below lists the assignments and the percentage of your overall grade that they represent:

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<tr>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
<th>Course Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Pop Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>In-Class Exam</td>
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<td>25%</td>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
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<td>15%</td>
<td>Final Paper Presentation</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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**Pop Quizzes:** Anywhere from 1 to 10 short exams will be scheduled on unannounced days and times. These quizzes will determine whether you have completed the reading for that week. If your absence is excused on the day of the quiz, you will be allowed to take another test (please see the criteria for an excused absence). If not you will fail that quiz.

**Exams:** There will be one in-class exam given during the semester. We will also have a review session for this exam and I will provide students with an exam review guide before the exam to help them study. If you must be absent from class during the date of an exam you must:

1) have a viable reason for missing the exam (to be determined by Dr. Irwin)
   AND
2) provide a note from a doctor or other relevant professional

**Presentations:** You will have two presentations to give during this course and they include the following:
1) a group presentation of course readings for the week
2) a final paper presentation
The first presentation, a group presentation, will cover the assigned readings and additional pertinent materials for that week of the course. Students will need to gather additional material to present that adds to students’ depth understanding of the topics presented that week. Some examples of additional material include looking at the abuse of female wards in the Hawai‘i’s Youth Correctional Facility (per the ACLU’s report), notable cases of intimate partner battering in Hawai‘i that made it into the news, or cases like the Tayesha Aiwohi case in Hawai‘i (a woman convicted of homicide for delivering drugs to her unborn child). These are just a few examples of possible additional materials that the group can present to the class to pique their interest in and understanding of women, girls, and crime.

The group presentation is designed to be a fun way to work with students in the class and should assist your comprehension of course readings. Learning is not only enhanced when we write about a topic, but also when we “teach” a topic to others. Thus, I’ll be grading your group on their ability to clearly communicate the ideas to others in the class. I also want you to have fun with primary research materials and find creative ways to bring the core ideas in each reading to life for students. Thus, I will also grade you on your creativity and excitement.

The second presentation will be an individual presentation of students’ final papers. These will occur during the last two weeks of the course. Presentations should be about 10 minutes.

**Final 12 Page Paper:** One 12-page paper will be due on the last day of class. In this paper, you will explore one of the topics covered in class. For example, you may choose
to look at some form of female offending (prostitution, drug dealing or using, violence, girls’ running away, to name a few), victimization of girls or women, girls and women in the criminal justice system, or women’s experiences as criminal justice workers. You will need to pose a research question early in the semester and, using research from primary sources, you will need to answer your question. You will need to review 7 original studies pertaining to your topic, identify your own independent research question, and explain, in detail, how these studies answer or do not answer your research question.

You must turn in a hard copy of your final paper with your student id number and a copy on a disk labeled with your name and student id number to pass the final paper requirement.

Kokua Statement: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Liliʻuokalani Center for Student Services

Plagiarism: The following definition of plagiarism comes from the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code:
Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.

University of Hawai`i at Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992), p. 6

REQUIRED READING


There will also be several reading handouts pertaining to the topics of the course.
SOC 435 READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1, Jan 12, 14, 16: Gender, Everyday Life, and Social Control

READINGS DUE:
- (Handout) West and Fenstermaker. “Power, Inequality, and the Accomplishment of Gender: An Ethnomethodological View.”
- (C&P) Daly. “Different Ways of Conceptualizing Sex/Gender in Feminist Theory and Their Implications for Criminology.”

WEEK 2, Jan 21, 23: Theorizing Gender/Theorizing Crime
Jan 19 – Holiday

READINGS DUE:
- (C&P) Britton. “Feminism in Criminology: Engendering the Outlaw.”

WEEK 3, Jan 26, 28, 30: The Gender Gap in Crime

READINGS DUE:
- (Handout) Neuman. “Data Collection and Techniques Used.”
- (Handout) Miller. “Gender and the Accomplishment of Street Robbery.”

WEEK 4, Feb 2, 4, 6: Researching Women, Girls, and Crime

READINGS DUE:
- (Handout) Mies. “Towards a Methodology for Feminist Research.”

WEEK 5, Feb 9, 11, 13: Catching Up and Exam

IN-CLASS EXAM, FEBRUARY 13

READINGS DUE: Review previous readings.
WEEK 6, Feb 18 & 20: Girls and Violent Crime
Feb 16 – Holiday

READINGS DUE:

WEEK 7, Feb 23, 25, 27: Women and Violence (continued)

READINGS DUE:
(Handout) Gartner and McCarthy. “Killing One’s Children: Infanticide and the Dark Figure of Homicide.”

FRIDAY FEB 2: GROUP 1 PRESENTATION, FEMALE VIOLENCE
1) ______________________________________________________________
2) ______________________________________________________________
3) ______________________________________________________________
4) ______________________________________________________________
5) ______________________________________________________________

WEEK 8, Mar 2, 4, 6: Women and Drugs

READINGS DUE:
(C&P) Maher, Dunlap, Johnson, and Hamid. “Gender, Power, and Alternative Living Arrangements in the Inner-City Crack Culture.”
(C&P) Bush-Baskette. “The War on Drugs as a War Against Black Women.”

FRIDAY MAR 6: GROUP 2 PRESENTATION, WOMEN AND DRUGS
1) ______________________________________________________________
2) ______________________________________________________________
3) ______________________________________________________________
4) ______________________________________________________________
5) ______________________________________________________________
**WEEK 9, Mar 9, 11, 13: Girls, Women, and Sexual Social Control**

READINGS DUE:
(Handout) Chesney-Lind and Irwin. “Growing Up Female: Families and the Regulation of Girlhood.”

**FRIDAY MAR 13 GROUP 3 PRESENTATION, GIRLS, WOMEN, AND SEXUAL CONTROL**

1) ______________________________________________________________
2) ______________________________________________________________
3) ______________________________________________________________
4) ______________________________________________________________
5) ______________________________________________________________

**WEEK 10, Mar 16, 18, 20: Women and Girls as Victims**

READINGS DUE:
(Handout) Gosselin. “Intimate Partner Violence Against and By Women.”
(Handout) Miller. “Playin’ Too Much: Sexual Harassment in Schools.”

**FRIDAY MAR 20 GROUP 4 PRESENTATION, GENDER AND VICTIMIZATION**

1) ______________________________________________________________
2) ______________________________________________________________
3) ______________________________________________________________
4) ______________________________________________________________
5) ______________________________________________________________

**WEEK 11, Mar 23 -27: NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK**
WEEK 12, Mar 30, April 1, April 3: Girls, Women, and the Criminal Justice System

READINGS DUE:
(C&P) MacDonald and Chesney-Lind. “Gender Bias and Juvenile Justice Revisited: A Multiyear Analysis.”

FRIDAY APRIL 3, GROUP 5 PRESENTATION, GIRLS, WOMEN, AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
1) ______________________________________________________________
2) ______________________________________________________________
3) ______________________________________________________________
4) ______________________________________________________________
5) ______________________________________________________________

WEEK 13 April 6, 8: Women as Criminal Justice Workers
April 10th Holiday

READINGS DUE:
(Handout) Farkas. “Women Working in Prisons and Jail Settings.”

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8, GROUP 6 PRESENTATION, WOMEN AS CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKERS
1) ______________________________________________________________
2) ______________________________________________________________
3) ______________________________________________________________
4) ______________________________________________________________
5) ______________________________________________________________
### WEEK 14, April 13, 15, 17: Masculinities, Femininities, and Interconnections in Crime

**READINGS DUE:**
- (C&P) Richie. “Challenges Incarcerated Women Face as they Return to Their Communities: Findings from Life History Interviews.”
- (Handout) Martin and Hummer. “Fraternities and Rape on Campus.”

### WEEK 15, April 20, 22, 24: Bringing It All Together and Student Paper Presentations

**READINGS DUE:**
- (Handout) Simpson and Gibbs. “Making Sense of Intersections.”

### WEEK 16, April 27, April 29, May 1: Student Paper Presentations

Opportunity for students to obtain feedback and tips regarding their research.

### WEEK 17, May 4, 6: Student Paper Presentations

**ASSIGNMENTS:** FINAL PAPERS DUE IN CLASS ON MAY 6TH. YOU MUST TURN IN A HARD COPY OF THE PAPER WITH YOUR STUDENT ID NUMBER AND A COPY ON A DISK LABELED WITH YOUR NAME AND STUDENT ID NUMBER TO PASS THE FINAL PAPER REQUIREMENT.