

CRJ 475 Women in Criminal Justice

Wintermester 2019

Number of Credits

3

Instructor

Pam Keller

Catalog Description

Explores the changing roles of women in the criminal justice system from three perspectives, that of the offender, victim and practitioner/policy maker.

Prereq(s): ENG 102; CH 201 or CH 202 or CH 203 or CH 212; and Junior or Senior standing.

Required Textbooks/Materials

The following text is required reading in this class:

Belknap, Joanne. *The Invisible Woman: Gender, Crime, and Justice* (Wadsworth Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice Series), 4th ed. Cengage Learning, 2014. ISBN: 9780495809135.

Recommended text: APA Guidebook

Note: Additional readings and materials will be posted in WebCampus.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- demonstrate an understanding that constant self-reflection is required to be an effective criminal justice philosopher/practitioner amidst American diversity in race, ethnicity, gender and class and display such thought and critical analysis in discussion and a variety of course assignments (CO 1, CO 3, CO 10);
- demonstrate knowledge of current research on gender in criminal justice and issues particularly important to women in considering the impacts and effects of gender and race in criminal justice (CO 10, CO 13); and
- demonstrate integration and synthesis of knowledge, ideas, and approaches, reaching beyond traditional or orthodox approaches and perspectives, to issues regarding the

roles and experiences of women as practitioners, offenders, and victims in the criminal justice system (CO 10, CO 13).

First Week of Materials/Assignments

The following schedule is subject to change:

- Criminology, Sex Stereotypes, and Sex differences, chapter 1
- Women's Crimes and Traditional Crime Theories, chapters 2–3
- Female Juvenile Offenders and Women in Prison, chapter 4
- Exam 1

Course Description

The focus of instruction in this class includes developing a foundation of knowledge regarding our “gendered” society and system of justice or criminal justice with the opportunity to consider different perspectives, and tools with which we may better evaluate our society and ourselves.

In exploring the roles of women in the criminal justice system, CJ 475 will examine gender issues in regard to the practitioner, the offender, and the victim. The main goal of this course is to further students’ understanding of issues related to gender and criminal justice. In this, it will examine and analyze the dynamics of a changing society, law, and criminal justice system and the intersection of gender, race, and class. For if it can be argued that gender doesn’t matter, some would ask, why study it? In this, many scholars today are concerned about “de-gendering” criminal justice, which may effectively return women to the invisibility they have faced historically as professionals, offenders, and victims. In addition, the course will present discussion of special social topics that are relatively unique to women such as sex trafficking, abortion, and prostitution. There are gender differences in nearly every area of criminal justice. We will consider many questions and differing viewpoints.

The course materials are designed to enhance critical thinking, problem solving, and understanding the realities of Criminal Justice. There will be case studies/group exercises of related problems and practices worked in class. There is not a large amount of time devoted to the textbook materials, as we will have group exercises, and other outside-the-book activities. I expect that you will devote the necessary time to reading and absorbing chapter materials independently and come to me with any questions. Obviously, regular class attendance is important, as well, and you are advised to bring your book to every class.

Grade Breakdown

The point distribution for the course is:

Assignment	Points
Exams (two worth 50 points each)	100
Quizzes (three worth 10 points each)	30
Case Studies (four worth 20 points each)	80
Current Events (four worth 10 points)	40
<i>Total</i>	<i>250</i>

The percentage distribution for the course is:

Letter	Percentage
A	90–100
B	80–89
C	70–79
D	60–69
F	below 60