

University of Colorado at Boulder
Department of Sociology

SOCY 6016: Topics in Sex and Gender
Women and Crime

Fall 2007
Thursdays, 3:00pm to 5:50pm
Location: Ketchum 33

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SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

This course considers historical and contemporary issues of girls and women involved in crime. Both victimization and criminal offending of girls and women will be considered. Focus will be specifically placed on the connection between childhood trauma, drug abuse, violence, and perpetration of crime in the lives of girls and women.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Chicana Lives and Criminal Justice: Voices from El Barrio by Juanita Díaz-Cotto. 2006, Austin: University of Texas Press.

Neither Angels nor Demons: Women, Crime, and Victimization by Kathleen J. Ferraro. 2006, Boston: Northeastern University Press.

War on the Family: Mothers in Prison and the Families They Leave Behind by Renny Golden. 2005, New York: Routledge.

Girls in Trouble with the Law by Laurie Schaffner. 2006, Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Behind the Eight Ball: Sex for Crack Cocaine Exchange by Tanya Telfair Sharpe. 2005, New York: Haworth Press.

COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS

The course workload and percentage points are distributed as follows:

Attendance & Participation = 20%

Reaction Papers = 30%

Examinations (in lieu of research/theory paper) = 50%

• *Midterm Exam* = 20%

• *Final Exam* = 30%

Research/Theory Paper (in lieu of exams) = 50%

Participation

Students are responsible for all material listed in the *Reading Schedule* (see below). This seminar requires a substantial amount of reading, so plan your study time wisely. Prior to each class, students are expected to read the assigned material and be prepared with questions and reflections to ardently and coherently participate in the seminar discussions. A critical assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the readings is expected. Although there are specific readings assigned for each seminar session, students are encouraged to consider and discuss comparisons and disparities among the readings.

Students are expected to attend every class. Plainly stated, *if you do not attend, you cannot participate.*

Reaction Papers

Based on the course readings, each student must write and submit 10 reaction papers throughout the semester. There are 13 opportunities to submit a reaction paper. If a student submits more than 10 papers, the lowest grade(s) will be dropped.

In each paper the student is to (1) *briefly* summarize the reading or part of the reading, and (2) provide a *critical* reaction and discussion to the reading.

Each reaction paper must meet the following technical requirements:

- Must be typed on white paper, using a black, "Times" or "Times New Roman," 10-12-point font, with double-spacing and one-inch margins all around
- Must include student name *only* at the top of the first page
- Must be 1 to 2 pages in length

Papers are to be submitted at the start of each class. Each submitted paper must correspond to the readings scheduled on the day the paper is submitted. If a student misses a class for a legitimate reason, she or he can submit the paper via e-mail attachment or fax, as long as it is submitted by 3pm on the missed day.

Examinations or Research/Theory Paper

Each student must choose to follow the Exam Track or the Research/Theory Paper Track. If a student does not take the midterm exam, she or he *must* write a final paper. However, a student may take the midterm, but has the option of writing a final paper and to not take the final exam. In this case, only the paper will count toward the final grade.

Both options count for a total of 50% of each student's final grade

Examination Track

For students who choose this option, there are two examinations in this course. Both exams comprise of essay questions that must be answered within 5 days. The final exam is cumulative of the entire course. The **midterm exam** will be handed out in class on **October 11** and is **due by 10am, October 17**. The **final exam** will be handed out in class on **December 13** and is **due by 10am on December 19**. Both exams are to be typed and turned in via email to the instructor's email address. Additional requirements will be provided when the exams are administered.

Research/Theory Paper

Students choosing this option must write a research and/or theoretical paper of graduate-level or publishable quality on any aspect of women and crime. The specific topic will be of each student's choosing, but will be done in consultation with the instructor. The **proposed paper topic** must be turned in via e-mail (no attachment necessary) by **Tuesday, September 18**.

After consultation with the instructor – through e-mail or during a personal meeting – and approval of the topic, students are expected to fervently begin constructing the paper. An **abstract of the paper, a paper outline, and a working bibliography** are to be turned in via e-mail (in an attached word-processing document) by **Tuesday, October 16**. The research for the paper, including theoretical papers, is to include gathering and reading *scholarly* articles and/or books on the subject(s) from the university libraries, library internet databases, or other academic resources. In addition, please review *Professor Potter's Paper Pet-Peeves* (separate handout) and strictly follow these technical requirements:

- Typed on white paper, using a black, "Times New Roman" (or equivalent), 12-point font and double-spacing
- Include a cover page with student name, title of the paper, and an abstract of 100 words or less
- Use the same citation format *correctly* throughout the entire paper
- 15 to 25 pages total, not including the cover page or references pages

Papers are due on **Wednesday, December 19 by 12:00pm** via an e-mail attachment *and* in hard-copy format.

READING SCHEDULE

It is expected that this schedule will be strictly followed, but the professor may make adjustments if less or more time is needed on a particular topic and depending on student progress.

Date	Topic	Readings
Thursday, August 30	Introduction to the course	Syllabus
Thursday, September 6	Girls' & Women's Paths into Offending and the Criminal Justice System	Díaz-Cotto, pp. 1-8, 31-97
Thursday, September 13		Díaz-Cotto, pp. 98-168
Thursday, September 20		Schaffner, pp. 1-77
Thursday, September 27		Schaffner, pp. 79-147
Thursday, October 4		Ferraro, pp. 1-70
Thursday, October 11		Ferraro, pp. 71-157
Thursday, October 18	Girls' & Women's Involvement in Illicit Drug Trade, Prostitution, and Violence	Ferraro, pp. 158-252
Thursday, October 25		Díaz-Cotto, pp. 11-30; Sharpe, pp. 1-79
Thursday, November 1		Sharpe, pp. 81-142
Thursday, November 8		Sharpe, pp. 143-208
Thursday, November 15	No class – Criminology conference	
Thursday, November 22	No class – Fall break	
Thursday, November 29	Girls' & Women's Correctional System Experiences and Collateral Consequences	Schaffner, pp. 149-202; Díaz-Cotto, pp. 171-256
Thursday, December 6		Díaz-Cotto, pp. 257-301; Golden, pp. xiii-44
Thursday, December 13		Golden, pp. 45-141

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION

Student Disability Services

Students desiring a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act must contact Professor Potter immediately to discuss their needs and seek assistance at the Disability Services Office, located at Willard Administrative Center, Room 322, 303-492-8671 (voice/TTY), DSinfo@colorado.edu.

The CU-Boulder Honor Code

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to review the Honor Code booklet at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/files/honor%20code%20booklet.pdf>.

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment, and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student who believes she or he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

Professor Responsibility Statement

As the professor for this course, I am devoted to maintaining a safe place (figuratively and literally) for students to discuss issues related to this course. It is my goal that students will not only leave the course with a better and more critical understanding of the issues addressed in the course, but that they will feel I treated them fairly and with respect regarding discussions, handling of course topics, administration of the classroom, and grading. If students have any questions or concerns about any of my statements, omissions, grading decisions, etc., I strongly encourage them to come to me with their concerns at their earliest convenience.

Hillary Potter