

**Women and Crime - CRJU 554 / WOST 554**  
**Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice**  
**University of South Carolina**  
**Spring 2008**

Professor: Dr. Barbara Koons-Witt  
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**Reading Requirements:**

**Text:** Schram, Pamela J. and Koons-Witt, Barbara (eds.) *Gendered (In)Justice: Theory and Practice in Feminist Criminology*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc.

In addition to the book, there will be several required readings available on blackboard (PDF format) for you to download and read. It is extremely important that you obtain these readings and familiarize yourself with them prior to class. They along with the book will be the focus of our lectures and class discussions. Please see me if you do not know how to use blackboard (blackboard readings denoted as “BB” on the schedule)

**Course Description:**

An overview of women and crime. The course will analyze theory and research about women who interact with the criminal justice system, particularly as offenders. The materials will cover such topics as feminist criminology, women and offending, women and the legal system, punishment and women offenders. As part of the course, the class will make several site visits to correctional facilities/programs for female offenders. The visits are intended to help students in applying what they learn in class to the real world of criminal justice.

**Course Objectives:**

The primary objective of this course is for students to obtain a better understanding of how gender influences the criminal justice system as well as how the criminal justice system influences gender. This class provides students with a different lens when examining the criminal justice system in the context of gender and other marginalized statuses such as race, ethnicity, and social class.

**Exams:**

***Undergraduate Students***

There will be a total of two exams for the class. They will consist of short essay questions and will come from assigned readings, handouts, and from class lectures. Students will be permitted to use their prepared notes (i.e., notes from lecture, personal notes) in order to complete the exams. Make-up exams will not be given unless the student provides a documented (verifiable) excuse, as in a medical emergency or death in the family. You MUST contact me within 48 hours of the assignment day in order to provide an explanation as to why the exam was missed. You may contact me by either email or phone. The make-up exam will be given in a format that may or may not be different from the original one.

### ***Graduate Students***

There will be a total of two take-home exams for the class. The exams will consist of long essay questions in which graduate students will be asked to synthesize and summarize key issues addressed in the readings.

### **Field Notes and Summary:**

Each student is expected to take and maintain field notes for each of the visits made. Since people will not be able to take notes during the visits, it will be important for students to produce their notes as soon as possible after each visit. I will periodically review students' field notes throughout the course and visits may be discussed in class. At the end of the semester, students will write a summary discussing their experiences in taking the class and conducting site visits. More directions will be provided concerning the field notes and summary at the beginning of the course.

### ***Graduate Students Only-- PAPER \*\*\****

Each graduate student will be required to write a 10 page paper for the course. The paper will incorporate information from the course readings, lectures, outside readings, as well as the field notes. Students may find it helpful to select a topic early in the course so they can begin to think about the area of interest as they read the course readings and make visits to the various facilities. Students should consider how gender is important or influences their chosen topic. Some possible topics include: prior abuse, drug addictions, motherhood, relationships, criminal behavior, punishment, the legal system, correctional programs, community reentry, stereotypes, and violence. The papers will be collected at the end of the course. Additional instructions/information will be provided as needed. Graduate papers will be collected during the last week of classes.

### **Attendance:**

Attendance will be taken as part of the course and will be factored into the final grade. Students are expected to be attentive in class (no reading papers, sleeping, etc.). It is to your benefit to come prepared to class having read the assigned readings. If you miss a site visit it CANNOT be made-up, therefore if you miss a site visit, it will be reflected in the grade for your field notes and summary. Students may miss 1 class lecture without penalty.

### **Classroom Conduct:**

Late students are very disruptive to both the instructor and other students. Please make sure you are prompt to class. Those of you who have difficulty making class on time because of schedule conflicts should see me to discuss the matter.

Many of you use cell phones and beepers during the course of their day. I expect all these devices to be turned off and out of sight after entering the classroom. Anyone found answering a cell phone, text messaging will be asked to leave the classroom.

No tape recorders are allowed unless you get my permission.

### **Academic Integrity:**

In order to make this an enjoyable educational experience for you and a class that is conducive to learning, we will adhere to the codes and rules as described in the Carolina Creed in the Carolina Community, USC Student Handbook and Policy Guideline. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in my class. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to stop by my office to discuss this matter.

**Grading System:** The following system reflects the calculation of students' final grades for the course.

<i>Undergraduate Students</i>				<i>Graduate Students</i>			
<u>Requirements:</u>		<u>Grades:</u>		<u>Requirements:</u>		<u>Grades:</u>	
Exam 1	25%	90- 100%	A	Exam 1	20%	90- 100%	A
Exam 2	25%	85-89.9%	B+	Exam 2	20%	85-89.9%	B+
Field Notes	30%	80-84.9%	B	Field Notes	30%	80-84.9%	B
Summary	15%	75-79.9%	C+	Summary	15%	75-79.9%	C+
Attendance	5%	70-74.9%	C	Paper	15%	70-74.9%	C
		65-69.9%	D+			65-69.9%	D+
		60-64.9%	D			60-64.9%	D
		0 -59.9%	F			0 -59.9%	F

## SCHEDULE

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topic(s):</b>	<b>Readings:</b>
<i>Week 1 January 14<sup>th</sup></i>	Feminism and Criminology	Chapter 1
<i>Week 2 January 21<sup>st</sup></i>	<b>Holiday – no class</b>	
<i>Week 3 January 28<sup>th</sup></i>	Feminism for the Mainstream Criminologist	Chapter 3
<i>Week 4 February 4<sup>th</sup></i>	<b>Field Study - Site Visit (tentative)</b>	
<i>Week 5 February 11<sup>th</sup></i>	Gender and Crime: Toward a Gendered Theory of Female Offending	Chapter 4
<i>Week 6 February 18<sup>th</sup></i>	Women in the Street-level Economy Up it Up	Chapter 5 Chapter 6
<i>Week 7 February 25<sup>th</sup></i>	<b>Field Study – Site Visit (tentative)</b>	
<i>Week 8 March 3<sup>d</sup></i>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
<i>Week 9 March 10<sup>h</sup></i>	Spring Break – No class	
<i>Week 10 March 17<sup>h</sup></i>	The Effect of Gender on the Decision to Incarcerate The War on Drugs and Incarcerated Mothers	Koons-Witt Chapter 9
<i>Week 11 March 24<sup>h</sup></i>	<b>Field Study – Site Visit (tentative)</b>	
<i>Week 12 March 31<sup>t</sup></i>	The Wrong Race, Committing Crime, Doing Drugs, and Maladjusted for Motherhood	Chapter 10
<i>Week 13 April 7<sup>h</sup></i>	Bringing Back Shame Female Inmates' Perspectives on Sexual Abuse	Chapter 11 Chapter 13
<i>Week 14 April 14<sup>h</sup></i>	<b>Field Study – Site Visit (tentative)</b>	
<i>Week 15 April 21<sup>t</sup></i>	Correctional Administrators' Perspectives Supervision Strategies and Approaches	Calhoun/Coleman (BB) Schram (BB)
<i>Week 16 April 28<sup>h</sup></i>	Pathways Out of Crime	Sommers (BB)
<b>FINALS WEEK</b>	<b>EXAM 2 (Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> @ 2:00pm)</b>	

\*\* The above schedule is tentative and I have the discretion to change it at anytime due to deletions to or additions of readings or a change in dates for our field visits at the request of wardens and/or program directors.