

## SYLLABUS

### **CRJ 309 WOMEN, CRIME AND LAW**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Barbara A. Borland  
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**COURSE CREDIT:** Three Credit Hours

**PREREQUISITES:** SOC 201: The Sociological Imagination

#### **REQUIRED COURSE TEXT:**

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to [www.exstudies.adams.edu](http://www.exstudies.adams.edu) and click on the "ASC Bookstore" icon.

Use **Section Number: 773** to order books from Bookstore site.

Muraskin, R. (2003). *It's a crime: Women and justice* (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall Publishing. ISBN #0130482005

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A sociological examination of women who commit crime, who are victims of crime, and who work in the criminal justice system.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

During this course, we will study the involvement of women in the criminal justice system by:

- Defining the major types of crime committed by women.
- Considering major theories surrounding women in the criminal justice system, concentrating specifically on patriarchal/feminist theory and conflict theory, as well as victimization theories.
- Reviewing the role of police, courts and corrections in terms of their relationships with women who commit crime, are victims, and who are professionals in the system.
- Reviewing and studying some of the contemporary issues and problems confronting women involved in the criminal justice system.
- Considering future directions for dealing with women, crime and law.

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

All assignments should be completed after reading the text.

**Requirement 1: 33% of final grade. 100 points.**

**Article Reviews:** While you are reading the text (approximately 1 month) collect articles from newspapers and news magazines discussing a) issues of crimes being committed by women, b) issues of women who are victims, and c) articles discussing professional women working in the criminal justice system. After you have read the entire text, using the articles, discuss the content of the articles and apply them to your reading. You should have at least three articles for each categories a, b, and c mentioned above. The purpose of this assignment is to provide you with current issues of women, crime, and law and to allow you to make practical application of the course materials to current issues. Be sure to use theory whenever possible. If there is a question about the applicability of an article, don't hesitate to contact the instructor. Please make sure to use newsworthy sources only. This instructor is very wary of Internet sources. More and more bogus information is springing up on the Internet and being considered as reliable. You may use the Internet but use reputable sources. Many news organizations publish their materials both in paper form and electronically. Include a bibliography with each article so that this instructor can access the information. Failure to do this will result in no credit being given. Article reviews should be completed in APA format. The length of each assignment should be approximately 3-4 pages. This assignment is worth 33 percent of the final grade and may be turned in at any time.

**Requirement 2: 33% of the final grade. 100 points.**

**Paper:** This textbook is divided into many different writings from over 40 different scholars. You are to choose one of the chapter topics that interest you and review other pieces of literature that have been written on the subject. For example, Chapter 18, "Women on Death Row," by Etta F. Morgan. You are provided with a huge list of references at the end of this chapter. Look up some of these references and discuss this topic using this information. You may also use outside information, for example National Institute of Justice material. This paper should be approximately 8-10 pages in length, typed (if at all possible) and double-spaced. Neither the title page nor the bibliography counts in the page requirements. APA format please. This exercise is given to you so that you may explore more thoroughly these theorists and topics important to this course.

**Requirement 3: 33% of final grade. 100 points.**

**Final Exam:** Once you have completed the readings, you are ready to take the final examination. This should be typed and double-spaced unless you have no access to a computer. If you must hand-write the exam, please write on only one side of the paper, as many times ink can bleed through and make it very difficult to read. Even though grammar is not graded on the final, be sure to quote when you are using sources including the text and be mindful of the rules of grammar. **This is an essay test. You may use your text.** This is a blend of overall comprehension. If you have not read the text, it will be very clear in your responses to the questions. No proctor is necessary.

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:**

Each assignment is graded on a 100-point scale.

<b>Final Exam (Unproctored &amp; Open Book)</b>	<b>Article</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Final Grade</b>
100-90 A	100-90 A	100 – 90 A - All info included. Grammar intact.	300-270 A
89 -80 B	89-80 B		269-240 B
79-70 C	79-70 C		238-210 C
69-60 D	69-60 D	89 – 80 B - Part of info not included and/or grammar deficiencies.	209-180 D
	59-< F	79-70 C - Both grammar and info. not complete.	179- 0 F
		69-60 D - Much of info. not included, grammar is deficient.	
		59 –0 F - Student didn't complete assignment.	