

Women & Criminal Justice
CJ 4326, Section 001
Spring, 2024
T/R 12:30-1:50 pm
Classroom: Hines 207

Instructor: Romy Zingraff, M.S. (she/her/hers)

Office Hours: T/R: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m

Office Location: Hill House

Zoom and in-person meetings outside of office hours are available by appointment.

Email: romyzingraff@txstate.edu

Office phone number: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores women's involvement in three primary areas of criminal justice - as victims, criminals, and practitioners employed in criminal justice agencies. Topics covered include the impact of sex and gender on criminological theory, sentencing, prison subcultures, victimization, and career choices. This course has multicultural content and is writing intensive.

Prerequisite: CJ 1310 with a grade of "D" or better.

CONTENT WARNING:

Please be advised that this is a very sensitive subject matter; some class material may contain images and related content that may be considered graphic or disturbing to some. Topics may be triggering for some; **practice self-care**. If need be, Texas State University offers **counseling services**. More information can be found on their website (<https://www.counseling.txst.edu/>). In addition, TimelyCare is a **FREE** mental health app for students (<https://www.healthcenter.txst.edu/timelycare.html>).

CONTACT POLICIES

Students who wish to contact me for various reasons can do so by **emailing me** (romyzingraff@txstate.edu). Even though I do my best to answer emails as quickly as possible, please give me 72 hours (**weekend NON included**) before sending a follow-up email. You can also come directly to my office (**Hines, basement RM. 07**) during office hours (one hour before and one hour after class on Tuesdays and Thursdays). If you are unavailable during my office hours, you can contact me through email and make an in-person or Zoom **appointment**.

COURSE CANVAS SITE

<https://canvas.txstate.edu/courses/2222914/modules>

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who complete this course will have the necessary knowledge and skills to examine and comment on the challenges faced by women in the criminal justice field, more specifically, as they relate to their involvement as victims and offenders.

This goal is achieved through various activities, including attending class, taking notes, participating in class discussions, reading assigned material, and asking questions during class and/or office hours.

REQUIRED TEXT AND READINGS

All readings for this course are available online through Canvas. PDFs and links will be provided. All materials can be accessed using your Texas State University NetID and password.

Packback: Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we cover in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

<https://app.packback.co/communities/5939fb77-3423-4440-8095-dc2caced10f/curiosity-feed/new>

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Participation: Regular attendance is essential and expected. You must do the readings and actively contribute to the learning environment by showing that you are actively engaged in learning the material. **You must come to class prepared to interact and be up-to-date on the assigned readings and activities.**

Technology/Electronic Devices: Students are allowed to use laptops and tablets for taking notes in this course. Students are not allowed to use their cell phones for note-taking purposes, which includes taking pictures without permission. Students caught using cell phones during class will be asked to leave and will receive a zero for any classroom activities that day. **Recording lectures is not permitted.** Please also see the policy "Recordings" in this syllabus.

Absences: **Students without university-recognized absences will not be allowed to make up missed assignments or exams and will receive a grade of 0.** An excused absence will be granted in the case of a documented, physician-ordered illness, death in the immediate family, or other documented crisis, a call to active military duty or jury duty, a religious holy day, or an official university activity. If you miss an assignment or exam due to an emergency, please 1) notify me as soon as possible or 2) contact the Dean of Students Office to make an absence notification request at: <https://www.dos.txst.edu/services/care-center/absence.html>.

Appointments and E-mail: Students are encouraged to meet with me at their convenience to address questions, concerns, and any other issues that may arise regarding the course. Outside of office hours, I am available by appointment on campus and via Zoom.

EVALUATION

Attendance (10%): Students are expected to attend class. As such, points will be earned for each class session you attend. Attendance will be taken using a QR code available on Canvas. **(Total: 100 points)**

Reflections (20%): I will assign three out-of-class documentaries throughout the semester. We will dedicate a small part of the following class to discussing each documentary. Further, you will submit a short reflection (one to two paragraphs) on Canvas. Each reflection will be worth 10 points **(Total: 30 points)**

Packback (30%): Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on what we cover in class and relate topics to real-world applications. Your participation in Packback will count toward 30% of your overall course grade. Each Packback is worth 10 points. Late assignments will not be accepted. **(Total: 90 points)**

In-class activities (20 %): Multiple in-class activities will occur throughout the semester. Some will require uploading files to the Canvas page, while others will be participation-based. For this grade, you must actively participate in the activities. If you miss class, you won't be able to make up for these points. If you have a university-accepted excuse, you will be asked to write a page of text about your intake on the activity **(Total: 100 points)**

Exams (20%): There will be two non-cumulative exams during the semester. Exams will be held in person and are worth 100 points each (multiple-choice questions). Students will be tested on information from lectures and assigned readings. Make-up exams will only be granted for students who have approved, university-recognized absences and will be in essay format. **(Total: 200 points)**

OR

Final Project (20%): You can work on a final project instead of taking the two exams. The goal of this project is to utilize the information provided throughout the course by applying aspects from class to the creation of a project focusing on one (or more) class topics. This project aims to identify how well you understood the information provided in this course and apply that knowledge. Points will be deducted if extensive reiteration of my PowerPoint occurs.

- You must select a topic covered in class (i.e., women as perpetrators, prostitution, women's victimization experiences) and thoroughly explain it.

- This project has two parts: 1) create a visual/audio summary of your topic 2) write a paper to describe in detail the topic and your project.

Important: Email me if you have another idea for a final paper. I am open to receiving your work in a different format than a paper, but I must approve it first. Failure to email me before the conception of your project may result in a grade drop. **(Total: 200 points)**

Extra Credit: Students will have opportunities throughout the semester to earn bonus points (up to 5). Bonus assignments will be posted a week before their due date.

Grades: All grades will be posted in the gradebook on the Canvas course website.

Final grades will be out of 390 points:

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D

≤ 59% = F

Any grade disputes for assignments, exams, and/or the final grade must be submitted in writing within one week after the grade is given with clear and substantial reasons for the desired grade change. I will not discuss grades without first receiving this written statement. However, if you believe an error has been made with your grade, please bring that to my attention as soon as possible.

LATE POLICY

You will be responsible for submitting your work (**Word format**) on Canvas **before midnight on the day of the deadline**. For instance, your first reflection will be due on January 30th. This means that you will have all day and evening of January to finish working on it. I highly recommend you start your work early as it will give you plenty of time. To remain fair to everybody in the class, **late work will not be accepted unless for a university-approved reason**, in which case I urge you to contact me as soon as you can.

COURSE POLICIES

Recordings: **The visual or audio recording of our class meetings is not allowed.** Further, photographs, videos, and audio recordings may not be uploaded to publicly accessible web environments or social media, including Twitter, TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook. For more information, please refer to PPS No. 02.03.02, Sections 06.01 and 06.02 (see <https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/02-03-02.html>).

Netiquette: Respect the diversity of opinions among the professor and your classmates by engaging with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and

classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words? Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults, or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature, and unwanted sexual advances or intimidations by e-mail or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom. If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let the professor know.

Grade Reductions: I reserve the right to lower the final grade by one letter grade due to repeated instances of disruptive behavior. If you choose to engage in behavior that is disruptive to the learning environment, you will be given a verbal or written warning. If this behavior continues despite this warning, an email will be sent to the student documenting this warning and the disruptive behavior. This email will be considered an official warning. If a student has received an official warning about his or her behavior and chooses to repeat it, they will be notified of the impending grade change that will occur at the end of the semester.

Notice of Copyright/Intellectual Property: I will post my slides on Canvas, but students are not to post lecture notes or other course materials on commercial or public websites. Notes are to be used for personal use only (which may include sharing notes with a classmate or in a study group, which is highly encouraged). Posting notes without my permission violates the academic honor code and university policies regarding intellectual property. Any infringement will result in the final grade being reduced by one full letter grade. In addition, university sanctions allowed by the relevant university policies and procedures will be pursued.

Changes to the Course Syllabus: I reserve the right to make changes to the course syllabus and schedule. If this does occur, an announcement will be posted on the Canvas course website. A revised course syllabus and schedule will also be posted on the Canvas course website.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students Needing Accommodations: A student with a disability may require accommodation(s) to participate in this course. They must contact me within the first two weeks of the semester. They will be asked to provide documentation from the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at that time. Failure to contact me in a timely manner will delay any accommodations the student may be seeking. Ongoing care by a physician does not automatically qualify you as an ODS special needs student. Students are required to file paperwork for accommodations with ODS each semester. Accommodations granted one semester do not automatically carry forward to the next.

Academic Honesty Policy: The submission of any work for a grade for which unauthorized help has been received is termed academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a failing grade in the course. "Unauthorized" is a term used here to designate stealing, copying (with or without permission), or collaboration with other individuals. Students are strongly encouraged to review the academic honor code and refer to the Texas State University student handbook for policies

related to academic dishonesty. These policies may be found at <http://www.dos.txstate.edu/handbook/rules.html>.

Addressing Acts of Academic Dishonesty: Students accused of dishonest conduct may have their cases heard by the faculty member. The student may also appeal the faculty member's decision to the Honor Code Council. Students and faculty will have the option of having an advocate present to ensure their rights. Possible actions that may be taken range from exoneration to expulsion. Students accused of violating the academic honor code are encouraged to consult UPPS No. 07.10.01 at <http://www.txstate.edu/effective/upps/upps-07-10-01.html>.

Gun policy: Effective August 1, 2016, concealed carry of a handgun by license holders is allowed on Texas public university campuses subject to the restrictions imposed by statutes and by the University President. Concealed carry is prohibited in some buildings on Texas State University Campuses. Please see txstate.edu/campuscarry. Open carry is **NOT** permitted on a university campus: "No person shall openly carry firearms or illegal weapons (as defined in Texas Penal Code 46.05a) or display a deadly weapon in a manner calculated to cause alarm (as prohibited by [Texas Penal Code Section 42.01](#)) while on university property. Exceptions to this prohibition include persons commissioned as peace officers in the state of Texas and federal law enforcement personnel." The university recommends calling the University Police Department by dialing "911" if you see someone carrying a gun on campus. They will respond and make contact with the individual to determine if that person has a License to Carry (LTC) and is appropriately carrying the weapon in compliance with all applicable laws and University policies. **All license holders are required to carry their license/permit on their person if they are also carrying their weapon.**

It is against university policy for faculty and instructors to forbid license holders from concealed carry. However, due to the sensitive nature of the topics discussed in this class, I am asking you to refrain from bringing a gun to class.

RIGHT TO CHANGE THE SYLLABUS

Although I put considerable effort into the syllabus to balance your workload and ensure that the course flows, adjustments to the content, timeline, and due dates for assignments may be required during the semester. If this is necessary, some components of the syllabus may change. However, any such changes will be posted on Canvas. The students are responsible for any such announced changes.

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Readings/ Assignments	Due
1	T	01/16	UNIVERSITY CLOSED	UNIVERSITY CLOSED	
	TR	01/18	Syllabus day	Class Syllabus	
2	T	01/23	Feminist criminology	Van Gundy (2016)	
	TR	01/25	Pathways to female offending	Simpson, et al. (2008); Wattanaporn & Holtfreter (2014)	Packback #1 due @11:59pm
3	T	01/30	Gender Un(Equality)	Out of class documentary	Documentary: Equals Mean Equals Reflection #1 due @11:59pm
	TR	02/01	UNIT #1: <i>Women's Criminality</i> Female Serial Killers	Freiburger (2016)	Packback #2 due @11:59pm
4	T	02/06	Women in Gangs	Belknap & Bowers (2016)	
	TR	02/08	Crimes against Men	Hines & Douglas (2009)	Packback #3 due @11:59pm
5	T	02/13	Property Crimes	Piper & Guerrero (2016)	
	TR	02/15	Drug Crimes	Poland (2016)	Packback #4 due @11:59pm
6	T	02/20	From Sentencing to Recidivism	Doerner & Demuth (2014); Marcus-Mendoza (2016)	
	TR	02/22	Midterm Review	Prepare questions for review	Packback #5 due @11:59pm
7	T	02/27	Mental Health Day		Treat yourself to some self-care
	TR	02/29	EXAM 1		Bring Scantron
8	T	03/05	UNIT #2: Women Victimization	Out of class documentary	Documentary: The Perfect Victim Reflection #2 due @11:59pm

	TR	03/07	Women sexual victimization	Romain (2016)	Packback #6 due @11:59pm
9	T	03/12	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS		
	TR	03/14	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS		
10	T	03/19	Intimate Partner Violence	Hilinski-Rosick (2016)	
	TR	03/21	Native American women: jurisdictional issues	Braithwaite, et al (2019); Duthu (2008)	Packback #7 due @11:59pm
11	T	03/26	Native American women: jurisdictional issues	Out of class documentary	<u>Movie:</u> Wind River (Freevee) Reflection #3 due @11:59pm
	TR	03/28	Prostitution	Winham & Higgins (2016)	Packback #8 due @11:59pm
12	T	04/02	Human Trafficking	Bratina & Carrero (2016)	
	TR	04/04	Cyber victimization	Marcum (2016)	Packback #9 due @11:59pm
13	T	04/09	Crime victims services	www.crimesolutions.gov ; White & Sienkiewicz (2018)	
	TR	04/11	Women's victimization experiences	Chinook (2004); TBA	Packback #10 due @11:59pm
14	T	04/16	Women working in corrections	Crank (2016)	
	TR	04/18	Exam Review	Prepare questions for review	Packback #11 due @11:59pm
15	T	04/23	Mental Health Day		Treat yourself to some self-care
	TR	04/25	EXAM 2		Bring Scantron
16	T	04/30	READING DAY - NO CLASS		
	TR	04/02			