I. **Course Information**

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor: K. Gershman  
Email: katarzyna.gershman@rutgers.edu  
Office Hours: Office hours may be by appointment only

**Course Overview:**

In this course, we will discuss the meaning of gender, femininity, and masculinity, as well as the role that each of these social constructs play in ideas about crime, offending, and victimization. Specifically, we will examine gender differences in official statistics on crime, offending, and victimization, along with the possible reasons for these differences. Additionally, we will study how changing social values about gender influence crime policies, punishment, and occupations within the criminal justice system.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Understand the relationships between gender (including the social constructions of masculinity and femininity), crime, and justice.
- Be able to discuss the gender differences in offending and victimization for women and men.
- Be able to provide possible theoretical explanations for gender differences in offending and victimization.
- Be able to compare the gender differences in punishment for women and men.
- Understand the ways in which gender influences the experiences of those who work within the criminal justice system.
**Required Readings:**


*Additional scholarly articles will be used to supplement during the semester, check blackboard (BB).*

**Course Requirements:**
Active participation in the course, which means completing readings and homework assignments on time and contributing positively to discussion in lecture will be a critical part of your grade. Attendance will be monitored, you are allowed two unexcused absences and any more than two will be grounds for dismissal from the class or for receiving a failing grade.

There will be two writing assignments and two in class examinations, serving as your midterm and final for the course. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day of your grade, no exceptions. Assignments are:
1. Video Critique Assignment
2. Examination One
3. Scholarly Article Critique
4. Examination Two

In class assignments and homework might be assigned at random, you should always be prepared by completing your assigned readings, as well as attending class.

**II. Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/5 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Barak, <em>Understanding Gender and Male Privilege</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Gideon, <em>Incarcerated Female: A Growing Population</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The meaning of Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td><strong>The Intersections of Gender, Crime, and Violence</strong></td>
<td>Belknap, <em>The Invisible Woman</em>, Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/12 &amp; 14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Britton, <em>The Gender of Crime</em>, Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td><strong>Theorizing Gender and Crime</strong></td>
<td>Belknap, <em>The Invisible Woman</em>, Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td><strong>Women, Femininity, Offending</strong></td>
<td>Belknap, <em>The Invisible Woman</em>, Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/26 &amp; 28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Men, Masculinity, and Offending</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>Accounting for the Gender Gap in Offending</strong></td>
<td>Schwartz: Can the gender gap in offending be explained?</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/03 &amp; 05</td>
<td></td>
<td>VIDEO ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS (10/05)</td>
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| Week 6 | 10/10 & 12 | Gender and Victimization  
Gender Based Violence | Britton, *The Gender of Crime*, Chapter 4  
Belknap, *The Invisible Woman*, Chapter 7 |
| Week 7 | 10/17 & 19 | Gender and Fear of  
Victimization (BB) | Abelson: Dangerous privilege: Trans men, masculinities, and changing perceptions of safety.  
Cops: “Doing gender” in fear of crime: The impact of gender identity on reported levels of fear of crime in adolescents and young adults. |
| Week 8 | 10/24 & 26 | MONDAY – REVIEW  
WED – EXAM ONE | We will use Monday to prepare for exam one, as well as go over your scholarly article assignment. |
| Week 9 | 10/31 & 11/02 | Gender and Criminal Justice  
Processing Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System | Britton, *The Gender of Crime*, Chapter 3  
Belknap, *The Invisible Woman*, Chapter 5 |
| Week 10 | 11/07 & 09 | Incarcerated Women and Girls  
Pregnancy and Motherhood  
Behind Bars (BB) | Belknap, *The Invisible Woman*, Chapter 6  
Gideon: Pregnancy and Motherhood Behind Bars |
| Week 11 | 11/14 & 16 | Gender and Work in the  
Criminal Justice System | Britton: *The Gender of Crime*, Chapter 5  
Belknap: *The Invisible Woman*, Chapter 10 |
| Week 12 | 11/21 & 23 | HAPPY THANKSGIVING!  
We meet Tuesday Only! | Belknap: *The Invisible Woman*, Chapter 11/12 |
| Week 13 | 11/28 & 30 | Gender and the Prison  
Experience (BB) | Jenness: Agnes goes to prison: Gender authenticity, transgender inmates in prisons for men, and pursuit of “the real” deal.  
Wooldredge: Assessing the need for gender-specific explanations of prisoner victimization.  
Scholarly Article due in class submission 11/30 |
| Week 14 | 12/05 & 07 | Feminist Theories  
Effecting Change | Belknap: *The Invisible Woman*, Chapter 3  
Belknap: *The Invisible Woman*, Chapter 13 |
| Week 15 | 12/12 | TUE EXAM TWO | **Please note I reserve the right to edit the readings and/or assignments during the semester, so please check blackboard for updates and additional information.**
III. Grading
(All grades are final and, with the exception of errors, non-negotiable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Video Assignment</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam One and Two</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Assignment</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Class Work/HW</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>(includes attendance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>and participation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>100</td>
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The following grading scale will be used for this course:

- A    90–100%
- B+   85–89%
- B    80–84%
- C+   75–79%
- C    70–74%
- D    60–69%
- F    <60%

IV. Course Policies

Academic Integrity

As a member of the Rutgers University community you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students [http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity](http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity)

Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university’s policy will result in appropriate action.

Academic Resources

Students with Disabilities

Rutgers University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Policy of the University and in compliance with § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For additional information please visit the website [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/) or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

Kate Torres
Coordinator of ADA Services and Academic Support
Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352
350 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: 973-353-5300
Psychological and Counseling Services
If you experience psychological or other difficulties as a result of this course, or because of other issues that may interfere with your performance in the course, please contact the university’s psychological and counseling service center (http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu; 973-353-5805), which is located in Blumenthal Hall, room 101. The center offers a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students who are enrolled at Rutgers.