

Millersville University
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Gender & the Law
SOCY 337.01 Spring 2020

Dr. Frederika E. Schmitt

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(preferred method of contact)
- ◆ Office Hours: MWF 12:15-2pm and by appointment

Class Meets:
MWF 11-11:50am
McComsey 206
CRN 16311

Course Objectives:

The student will:

- Examine the lives of women as offenders, prisoners, victims/survivors and workers in the criminal justice system from a variety of perspectives and disciplines
- Examine and apply various feminist theories to law, crime and social life
- Investigate in depth the work & life of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg
- Analyze how the courts and the law construct gender
- Analyze how the intersections of sexism, racism, heterosexism, and classism impact the lives of individuals and communities in regard to criminality
- Analyze the criminalization of women's reproductive lives/choices
- Analyze how heterosexism & homophobia are connected to women, crime and justice
- Develop critical thinking, oral & written communication skills

Requirements:

All written work is due at the beginning of the class period on the date assigned, late work will not be accepted, nor will examinations be rescheduled.

1. Attend each class meeting and arrive on time. Attendance is mandatory, you will sign in at the start of each class period, do NOT be late, if you miss sign in you will be marked as absent and your grade will be negatively impacted, see attendance policy. Turn OFF your cell phone before you enter the classroom. Any form of cell phone use during class is strictly forbidden, I reserve the right to confiscate your phone if you insist on using it during class.
2. Complete the assigned readings BEFORE the class for which they are assigned and be prepared to discuss them in class. Take notes on the main themes of each reading and how they connect to each other and class lecture. You will be required to write up (type) "**Connections**" to show how you are integrating the material. These homework assignments will be the basis of our class discussion and will be collected. (Part of hw/class participation 20%)
3. You will be required to informally present a set of readings with a group from *Our Bodies, Our Crimes* DUE: **March 9-30** (exact schedule TBA) (class part 20%).
4. Midterm Examination (20%): **Friday, March 6, 2020**
5. Formal Group oral presentation, your group will "teach" one class meeting based on readings from *Women, Gender and Crime* by Mallicoat (20%). DUE: **April 1-29, 2020**
6. One critical major paper (20%). DUE: **Monday, April 27, 2020**
Must be different topic from formal group oral presentation (#5 above).
6. Final Examination (20%): **Friday, May 8, 2020 from 8-10 am**

Course Evaluation:

Course evaluation will be based on your formal & informal group oral presentations, major paper, midterm examination, final examination, class participation, and homework assignments. All written work must be typed and is due **at the beginning of the class period** on the date assigned, late work will NOT be accepted. Completion of all course assignments by date due is necessary for a passing grade in this course.

Grading Scale:

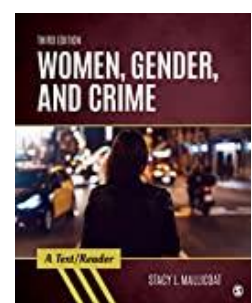
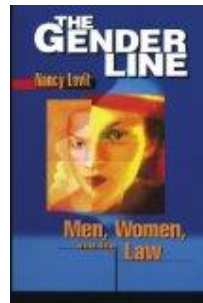
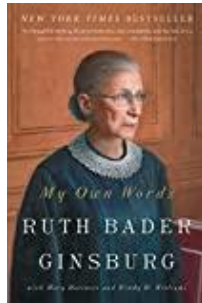
100 - 95	A	76 - 73	C
94 - 90	A-	72 - 70	C-
89 - 87	B+	69 - 67	D+
86 - 83	B	66 - 63	D
82 - 80	B-	62 - 60	D-
79 - 77	C+	59 and below	F

Extra Credit will be offered for attending events on campus related to our course. I will either announce these in class or send you an email via the course listserv to your MU account. If you are aware of any upcoming events that are related to our course material, please let me know. Extra credit criteria:

1. Attend the event (ex. Lecture, film, art exhibit, dance performance . . .)
2. Write a 2 page reaction paper including: short summary of event, how it connects to our course material and your reaction to the event. Submit hardcopy within one week of event.
3. You are permitted to submit a total of 3 papers, each are worth 1 point added to your final course GPA, I will not return each paper, “no news is good news,” and I will only accept hard copy.

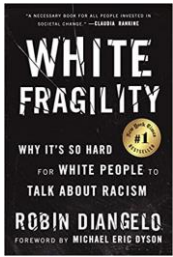
Required Reading:

You can buy/rent your books at your favorite online bookseller or at our campus bookstore. I have found that everytext.com has many of the books I require available for rent/buy as does Amazon.



- Flavin, Jeanne. 2009. *Our Bodies, Our Crimes: The Policing of Women's Reproduction in America*. New York: NYU Press.
- Ginsburg, Ruth Bader with Mary Hartnett and Wendy Williams. 2016. *My Own Words*. New York: Simon and Schuster. (referred to as **RBG**)
- Levit, Nancy. 2004. *The Gender Line: Men, Women and the Law*. New York: New York University Press. (Listed as “Levit” on course schedule)
- Mallicoat, Stacy L. 2019. *Women and Crime*. 3rd Edition. Los Angeles: Sage. This is an edited collection with chapters by Mallicoat and 26 scholarly articles by authors from a variety of fields including: law, sociology, psychology, public health, criminal justice, medicine, criminology, political science, and religion.

Highly recommended reading:



Di Angelo, Robin. 2018. *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*. Beacon Press.

Shared Responsibilities: Teaching and learning are reciprocal parts of an interactive process. **It is my responsibility** to come prepared to class, share information with you in an intelligible manner, direct you to resources which help you fulfill your tasks, provide you with opportunities to meet outside of class, ensure that the classroom is a place where we are free to respectfully acknowledge and express our differences, answer your questions, stimulate creative thought, facilitate discussions, evaluate your progress, and return your work in a timely fashion. **It is your responsibility** to also come prepared to class, ask questions, participate in class discussions, think critically, apply the concepts you will learn in class, be respectful of me and others in the classroom, and finish your assignments on time. If either one of us fails to live up to these standards, this interaction will break down and education becomes more difficult. If you are having difficulties meeting your obligations, please inform me. (this paragraph included with Dr. Mahaffy's permission)

Additionally, it is your responsibility to read this syllabus and all assignment rubrics BEFORE you ask me any questions that may be answered in these documents. Only when you cannot find the answers in the documents is it appropriate to ask me a question.

Connections Assignments

Purpose: In order for you to better understand and comprehend the material for this course you are required to write papers that make concrete connections between the concepts in the readings. It is not good enough to be passive readers of these materials, you **MUST** engage with them. Therefore, once you have read you are to examine the readings them and write the connections you see between them, be specific, you **MUST name/cite the authors and concepts you are connecting**.

- Each paper is due at the beginning of class and will be used as the basis for class discussion.
- Each paper should be at least 1 full page in length, with 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced, and checked for proper spelling and grammar.
- At the top of each paper (in one single line) list: your name, Gender & Law, & due date.
- Ex. Jenny Smith Gender & Law 1/31/2020
- These papers are part of your homework/class participation grade (20%)

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is mandatory, you will sign in every day at the start of class, if you miss sign-in you will be marked as absent, do **NOT** be late to class. You are allowed **TWO** unexcused absences, after that any unexcused absence will result in a $\frac{1}{2}$ **grade reduction in your overall grade**. Absences will only be excused with written documentation of one of the following possible reasons for excused absence: illness, accident, injury (to yourself or dependent), court mandated appearance or death of a family member/close friend. You must submit hard copy of your excuse to me, **NOT** in an email.

Academic Dishonesty: Having been a student for many years, I am aware of the pressures on students to achieve the highest grade possible. While aware of these pressures they are **NOT** an excuse for cheating or plagiarism. Not only is cheating blatantly unfair to honest students, it also undermines the spirit of inquiry that is essential to the free exchange of ideas. Therefore, **CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**. I will do everything in my power to prevent students from cheating, to identify those who do cheat, and to prosecute those who are caught.

LEARNING SERVICES—Accommodations

I fully understand that every individual learns in their own way. To that end, I honor all accommodations garnered through learning services. If you have already worked with the Office of Learning Services and are afforded accommodations I strongly encourage you to take advantage of them. You **MUST** come see me to discuss your particular needs. If you believe you may need accommodations I strongly encourage you to seek assistance with the Office of Learning Services, 3rd floor, Lyle Hall.

Tutoring and Additional Help: You should know that you can always come to see me during office hours or make an appointment. Additionally, there are numerous resources on campus that are available to you and that you should take advantage of, some include:

- **The Cryst & Library Writing Centers** provide tutoring and advice for all students who want help with their writing, especially helpful for major paper.
<http://muweb.millersville.edu/~engl-win/>

- **The Tutoring Center** offers workshops on proper reading techniques, ways to improve your note taking, time management strategies, ADHD, and general study skills.
<http://muweb.millersville.edu/~tutorctr/index.php> -- link to workshops
- Students sometimes face mental health or drug/alcohol challenges in their academic careers that interfere with their academic performance and goals. Millersville University is a caring community and resources are available to assist students who are dealing with problems. The **Counseling Center** (717-871-7821) is an important resource for both mental health and substance abuse issues. Additional resources include: Health Services (871-5250), Center for Health Education & Promotion (871-4141), & Campus Ministries.
- <http://campuscupboard.strikingly.com/> Food Pantry – many students experience food insecurity, if you need basic food items or a full meal check out MU’s Campus Cupboard right near the back entrance to Dilworth by the pond. **The Campus Cupboard at the HUB 121 N George St**
- **Office of Diversity and Social Justice:** The Office of Diversity and Social Justice advances Millersville University’s commitment to social justice, inclusive excellence and numerical, intellectual and interactional diversity by serving as an integral component of the Office of the President. One of the primary functions of the ODSJ is to support Millersville’s community of learners, teachers and leaders by cultivating a climate of collaboration and collective problem-solving related to diversity and social justice issues. If you feel you are the target of discrimination, bias or harassment, please contact Dr. Felicia Brown-Haywood’s office here: <https://www.millersville.edu/dsj/>
- I am a SafeZone mentor and an LGBTQIA+ ally.
- 1 in 5 college women & 1 in 16 college men are sexually assaulted, report to MUPD and seek **Sexual Assault Counseling** by YWCA on campus, call Center for Health Education & Promotion 871-4141 (and see below)
- In December 2017 I became a Certified Green Dot Trainer, to find out more about this fantastic program to end dating violence, sexual assault & stalking check them out: www.livethegreendot.org

POWER BASED VIOLENCE – The following statement is from the University. Please know that I am trained to assist you in getting the help that you need. Silence only makes these situations worse, please reach out to a trusted individual, intervene and be compassionate.

Millersville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires faculty members to report incidents of sexual violence shared by students to the University’s Title IX Coordinator. The only exceptions to the faculty member’s reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student

during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project.

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence, and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence, is available at <http://www.millersville.edu/socialreq/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/index.php>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan. 22 Introduction

Jan. 24 **Supreme Court Justice “Notorius” Ruth Bader Ginsburg**
Reading: RBG pp. 1-60 Part One: Early Years & Lighter Side

Jan. 27 **Studying Women & Crime**
Reading: Mallicoat pp. 1-20 Women, Gender & Crime: Introduction
RBG pp. 63-112 Tributes to Waypavers & Pathmarkers

JAN. 29 WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE: “Connections” – type up 2 connections you observe between any of the readings you’ve done so far. Be specific, list authors and page #s on every Reading Link you write.

Jan. 31: Assign Student Groups for *Our Bodies, Our Crimes* – bring book to class

Jan. 29-Feb. 5 **Liberal & Radical Feminist Jurisprudence**
Reading: Mallicoat pp. 24-36 “Transformative Feminist Criminology”
RBG pp. 113-164 On Gender Equality: Women & the Law

Feb. 7-14 **Marxist & Socialist Feminist Jurisprudence and Gendered Institutions**
Readings: Mallicoat pp. 37-50 “Grounding the Analysis of Gender & Crime” by Jody Miller
RBG pp. 167-247 A Judge Becomes a Justice & The Justice on Judging and Justice

FEB. 12 WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE: “Connections”—type up 2 connections you observe b/t any of the readings/class discussion you have done since Jan. 29th (last reading link). Be specific, list authors & p #s.

Feb. 17 **Women of Color Feminist Jurisprudence & Value of Diversity**
RBG pp. 248-334 The Justice on Judging and Justice

Feb. 19-24 **The Gender Line: Men, Women & the Law** by Levit
Readings: Gender Separatism. Levit pp. 1-63
The Courts & Gender Separatism. Levit pp. 64-104
The Socio-Legal Construct of Masculinity. Levit pp. 105-122

FEB. 24 WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE: Type up 2 connections you have observed in the readings/class discussion since the last reading link was due Feb. 8th. Be specific, list authors & p #s.

Feb. 26-March 2 **The Gender Line: Men, Women & the Law**
Readings: Feminism & Its Detractors Levit pp. 123-167
Feminist Legal Theory & the Treatment of Men Levit pp. 168-198
Reconstructing Images of Gender in Theory Levit pp. 199-215
Remaking Gender in Practice Levit pp. 216-248

March 2nd WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE: “Connections” -- Type up 2 connections you have observed in the readings/class discussion since the last reading link was due Feb. 25th

March 4 Wrap Up *The Gender Line*, review for midterm AND assign Mallicoat FORMAL presentation chapters, bring *Women, Gender & Crime* (book) to class

March 6 **MIDTERM EXAM**

March 9 ***Student Informal Presentation: Our Bodies Our Crimes***
Introduction & Chp 1 “Race Criminals:” Reproductive Rights in America

March 9 International Women’s Day Celebration at the Ware Center 6pm – extra credit event

March 11 Chp 2 “Breeders”: The Right to Procreate

March 13 Chp 3 “Back-Ally Butchers”: Terminating Pregnancies

March 16-20 SPRING BREAK

March 23 Chp 4 “Baby Killers”: Neonaticide and Infant Abandonment

March 25 Chp 5 “Innocent Preborn Victims”: Fetal Protectionism & Pregnant Women

March 27 Chp 6 “Liars and Whiners”: Incarcerated Women’s Right to Reproductive Health **AND**
Chp 7 “Bad Mothers”: Incarcerated Women’s Ties to Their Children

March 30 Chp 8 “Asking for it”: Battered Women & Child Custody

April 1-29 Student Formal Presentations on *Women, Gender & Crime* by Mallicoat

April 1 Topic: Victimization
Readings Mallicoat, Rape & Sexual Assault pp. 91-138

April 3 Topic: Victimization
Readings: Mallicoat, Intimate Partner Abuse & Stalking pp.139-185

April 6 Topic: Victimization
Reading: Mallicoat: International Issues in Victimization pp. 187-236

April 8 Topic: Offending
Reading: Mallicoat: Women, Gender and Offending pp. 241-276

April 13 Topic: Female Offending
Readings: Mallicoat: Girls & Juvenile Delinquency pp.279-319

April 15 Topic: Female Offending
Reading: Mallicoat: Female Offenders & their Crimes pp. 325-371

- April 17 Topic: Female Offending
Reading: Mallicoat, Processing & Sentencing pp. 375-419
- April 20 Topic: Female Offending
Reading: Mallicoat, The Supervision of Women pp. 423-464
- April 22 Topic: Female Offending
Reading: Mallicoat, Women, Gender & Incarceration pp. 467-512

April 27 – Major Paper Due

- April 27 Topic: Women Professionals in the CJ System
Reading: Mallicoat: Police, Corrections, & Offender Services pp. 515-554
- April 29 Topic: Women Professionals in the CJ System
Reading: Mallicoat: Courts & Victim Services pp. 555-606
- May 1 Women Professionals in the CJ System
- May 4 Last Day of Classes
Topic: What have we learned and where do we go from here?
Review: Students bring questions to class.

FINAL EXAMINATION
Friday, May 8 from 8-10 am