Course Title: Violence Against Women

WST 3930  Section: 03CD

Class Periods:  M, W, F period 3

Location:  LIT 0121

Academic Term:  Spring 2018

Instructor:
Dr Maddy Coy
Email: m.coy@ufl.edu (please contact me by email, not through Canvas)
Office: Ustler 303
Office Phone Number: 352-273-0391
Office Hours: Monday 12-2, Thursday 11-12 and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:
Mirela Frantz Cardinal
Email: mirelacardinal@ufl.edu or through the Canvas website
Office hours: Friday 11.30-12.30

Course Credits: 3

Course Description

Violence against women persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality (United Nations, 2006)

This course focusses on what we know and what we think we know about violence against women, described by United Nations as a ‘global injustice’ (United Nations, 2006: 12). Feminists have been talking about, theorizing and researching violence against women for decades. A transnational movement has grown to challenge the silences and taboos about experiencing violence, more recently joined by state engagement at national and international levels, and alliances of men that disavow connections between masculinities and abusive practices. As more is known about violence against women, some myths and controversies are disrupted, while others take their place and become part of ‘common-sense’ discourse. In this course we will examine why some questions, such as ‘why doesn’t she just leave?’ endure, as well as the origins and persistence of rape myths and assumptions about culture, religion and violence. These will be contrasted with the empirical evidence base on violence against women, comprising research with victim-survivors, prevalence data, public policy analysis and the more limited range of studies on perpetrators.

We will adopt an intersectional approach to understanding forms of violence against women and the contexts in which they occur. A key question will be how social structures of gender interact with race/ethnicity, class and sexuality to shape victimization and perpetration. Violence against women is now recognized as a global issue, and we will explore the transnational dimensions of such violence and law/policy responses. This includes how prevalence of violence varies by region, violence in conflict, and what intervention and prevention looks like in different contexts. While the course format means that some forms of violence are addressed separately, a core theme will be to make connections through Liz Kelly's (1988) concept of the ‘continuum’ of violence against women.

By the end of the course, students will be able to critically engage with:

- the evidence base on the extent of violence against women globally and in the US, with a focus on different forms of violence and how these practices are globalised;
- myths and stereotypes about victims and perpetrators, including how these are perpetuated in the media;
- theoretical frameworks for understanding violence against women, and how these accommodate transnational perspectives;
- law and public policy responses, including support for victim-survivors.
The class will be interactive, and reading will be required. You will be particularly encouraged to contribute your views on how violence against women is represented in everyday popular culture. If you do not keep with reading, you will be at a disadvantage on the assignments.

**Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites**
None

**Course Objectives**
By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- define different forms of violence against women and the connections between them;
- understand conceptual frameworks that position violence against women in social structures, including with reference to gender, race, class and sexuality;
- recognise and deconstruct myths and stereotypes about victims and perpetrators;
- identify sources of empirical data about violence against women and current gaps in the evidence base.

These course objectives will be evidenced through assignments.

**Materials and Supply Fees**
None

**Required Textbooks**


PDFs of weekly required reading will be available in Canvas

**Recommended Materials (all available in the library)**

Nicole Westmarland (2015) *Violence Against Women* London: Routledge (this book is focused on England and Wales, but the overall analysis is recommended because it is accessible and insightful)

*Violence Against Women* journal, available through the university library
*Journal of Gender-Based Violence*

**Recommended websites**
https://vawnet.org/
https://www.rainn.org/
https://www.nsvrc.org
http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women
http://evaw.unwomen.org/en
www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk
http://gnws.org/en/

**Course Schedule**
Reading assignments must be completed before coming to class. Please note that this schedule of readings is subject to minor modifications. All changes in the syllabus will be announced in class and posted via E-learning.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Week 1 | What is Violence Against Women? Definitions and Understandings | M: None. Welcome and Introduction session  
| Week 2 | Extent of VAW | M: NO CLASS (Martin Luther King day)  
F: NONE. Class TBC |
| Week 3 | Conceptual perspectives | M: bell hooks 'Ending Violence' in *Feminism is for Everybody: A Passionate Politics* (2000)  
W & F: Liz Kelly 'It's everywhere': sexual violence as a continuum (2) ch 5 in *Surviving Sexual Violence* (1988) |
| Week 4 | Domestic/intimate partner violence | M: The *Power and Control Wheel* and *Equality Wheel* (PDFs in Canvas)  
W: Liz Kelly 'I'm not sure what to call it but'... defining sexual violence ch 6 in *Surviving Sexual Violence* (1988)  
F: NONE. Class viewing of ‘I'd just like to be free’ by Imkaan/End Violence Against Women and group discussion |
W: Purna Sen on Crimes in the Name of Honour, 2003 speech (URL in Canvas)  
F: Nicole Westmarland 'Female Genital Mutilation' ch 8 in *Violence Against Women: Criminological Perspectives on Men’s Violences* (2015) (PDF in Canvas, book available in the library) |
**Week 7**  
19th Feb  
**Sexual exploitation**  
W: *From “Sex Work” Advocate to Survivor Leader: A Journey Embraced* (weblink in Canvas)  
F: Catharine MacKinnon ‘*Trafficking, Prostitution, and Inequality*’ (2009) (PDF in Canvas)

**Week 8**  
26th Feb  
**Femicide**  
M: Karen Ingala Smith ‘*Counting Dead Women*’ (link to blog in Canvas)  
W: Mabel Encinas (2016) *Femicide in Mexico and Guatemala* Open Democracy (link in Canvas)  
F: IN CLASS EXAM

**Week 9**  
5th March  
**SPRING BREAK**  
NO CLASS

**Week 10**  
12th March  
**VAW in conflict and emergency contexts**  
F: NONE. Discussion of next assignment

**Week 11**  
19th March  
**Impacts of violence against women**  
**SUBMISSION OF THIRD ASSIGNMENT: ANALYSIS OF A MEDIA REPORT ON VAW (media report will be provided in Canvas)**  
W: Susan Brison (2008) Everyday Atrocities and Ordinary Miracles, or Why I (Still) Bear Witness to Sexual Violence (But Not Too Often) *Women’s Studies Quarterly* 36 (1&2) 188-198  
F: GUEST SPEAKER: SPECIALIST VAW SERVICE

**Week 12**  
26th March  
**Perpetrators**  
F: NONE. Interactive class discussion of a multi-level model for understanding perpetration by Carol Hagemann White and colleagues

**Week 13**  
2nd April  
**Law and public policy on VAW**  
| Week 14 9th April | VAW in the media, including social media and online spaces | M: Zero Tolerance ‘Handle with Care: A guide to responsible media reporting of violence against women’ (PDF in Canvas) |
| W: Self-Care or Speaking Out? A Black Feminist Dilemma (blog by Sister Outrider, weblink in Canvas) |
| F: Ruth Lewis, Michael Rowe and Claire Wiper (2017) Online Abuse of Feminists as an Emerging Form of Violence Against Women And Girls British Journal of Criminology 57 1462-1481 |

| W: Mona Eltahawy ‘One Hand Against Women’ in Headscarves and Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution |
| F: Srila Roy (2016) Breaking the Cage Dissent Fall 2016 (Link in Canvas) |

| Week 16 23rd April | Preventing VAW | M: Michael Flood (2015) Work with men to end violence against women: a critical stocktake Culture, Health & Sexuality 17 (2) 159-176 |
| W: NONE. Class viewing of presentation by Marai Larasi, Imkaan/End Violence Against Women |

| Final assessment due -- narrated PowerPoint presentation | Closing discussion |

**Classroom expectations**

Violence against women is surrounded by myths and stereotypes. Studying this topic can also be emotionally challenging. If you find the discussions difficult, please leave the room for as long as you need to speak to and/or your instructor privately. There will be basic ground rule for class, as below.

1. **Never ask another student in the course if she or he is a victim-survivor** (While it is up to individual students as to whether they choose to discuss their own experiences in class, it is inappropriate for anyone to ask another person if she or he has been violated/abused in any way).
2. **Always maintain confidentiality** with respect to other students’ experiences.
3. **Do not expect another student in the class to speak on behalf of a group** (e.g. African Americans, Muslims, Christians, men, lesbians, rape survivors, etc).

Details of specialist support services are at the end of this syllabus. You might not need them, but you might know someone who does.
**Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy**

Attendance for this class is not mandatory, but please bear in mind how missing class will affect your ability to process the content and course materials. Catching up on notes is no substitute for being part of class discussions, and absence is likely to be reflected in quality of your assignments.

If you miss class, before you come and talk to me, please make sure you have completed the readings for the class you missed and reviewed notes from a classmate. Make-up lectures will not be given during office hours but questions on readings, after you have reviewed the notes of a classmate and completed the readings on your own, are welcome and will enthusiastically be answered.

**Exam:** Make up exams will be offered for medical reasons and for participation in university athletic events only. Make up exams for these reasons will be offered during the instructor's office hours. No other exceptions will be considered.

I expect students to participate in class discussions and pay attention. Although no “points” are assigned as part of your grade, let’s say, for example, your final grade is 895 (B+). If your class participation has been productive, your grade would be “bumped up” to an A-. If you have not participated in class, your grade would remain at a B+. I will look for “quality” not “quantity.” In other words, your grade will not be favorably influenced by talking just to talk. I expect you to make intelligent and insightful comments in relation to the texts we will study. In addition, inattention in class, such as reading the newspaper, checking social media, and checking your phone/internet for unrelated activities also will be noted and will discourage your instructor from “bumping up” your grade.

**Assignment details**

There are five assignments for this course.

1. **Class quiz. FRIDAY OF WEEK 4 (10%)**

   This quiz will take the first 30 minutes of class on Friday of week 4. It will be based on the reading from weeks 1-4 and content of lectures. Please make sure you are up to date with reading.

2. **Reflective learning blog 1. DUE BY THE BEGINNING OF CLASS, FRIDAY OF WEEK 6 (25%)**

   This document should be your account of what you have learned during the first three weeks of class. You should refer to the concepts, literature and data discussed, and the readings. There should be one entry that covers each week of teaching and the themes we covered. A good grade will require more than description; you should reflect analytically on how your thinking has (or has not) changed, what you were most challenged by, and if you have followed up with any additional reading. There are no strict word limits, but you should aim for around 4 pages, double spaced. References to academic literature are expected.

3. **In class exam. FRIDAY OF WEEK 8 (20%)**

   You will choose two of five questions on course content to answer in this exam, which will take place during class in Week 8. Questions will cover core concepts and research data from the class reading, so please ensure that you are familiar with both to give yourself the widest possible options.

4. **Analysis of a media report about violence against women. TO BE SUBMITTED BY END OF CLASS, FRIDAY, WEEK 11 (20%)**

   How the media report violence against women has been subject to much scrutiny. Your task will be to analyze an article about VAW that will be provided in Canvas. In approximately 2 double spaced pages, discuss the article and highlight main themes. What discourses about VAW are evident in the article? How are victims and perpetrators
represented? Who, if anyone, is consulted as an expert? You should submit this in paper copy by the end of class, Friday of week 11.

5. Narrated PowerPoint Presentation TO BE SUBMITTED VIA CANVAS, by 11.59 PM ON WEDNESDAY, WEEK 16 (25%)

This assignment will bring together the themes from the course. You should prepare a presentation in PowerPoint, and use the recording function in PowerPoint to narrate an explanation for each slide, with a total time of 5 minutes. The slides should be a guide to what you say in the recording. The presentation can be on one of three topics: an overview of a form of violence against women; myths and stereotypes about violence against women; why a feminist analysis of violence against women is necessary. References to literature and key concepts are expected. The presentation file should be uploaded to Canvas by midnight Friday, week 16.

Evaluation of Grades
Grading rubrics for relevant assignments will be in Canvas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class quiz</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective learning blog</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class exam</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of media article</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrated presentation</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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Final Grade
At the end of the semester, final grades will be determined by the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94 and more</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-83 points</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79 points</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>74-76 points</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73 points</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>67-69 points</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-66 points</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-63 points</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>59 and fewer</td>
<td>E</td>
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More information on UF grading policy may be found at:
http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

UF COURSE POLICIES

Students Requiring Accommodations
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to me when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/

University Honesty Policy
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code."
On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

**Software Use**
All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

**Student Privacy**
There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html

**CAMPUS RESOURCES**

**Health and Wellness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U Matter, We Care:</th>
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<tr>
<td>If you or a friend is in distress, please contact <a href="mailto:umatter@ufl.edu">umatter@ufl.edu</a> or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Counseling and Wellness Center:</th>
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<td><a href="http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc">http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc</a>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.</td>
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<tr>
<th>University Police Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <a href="http://www.police.ufl.edu/">http://www.police.ufl.edu/</a>.</td>
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**Specialist support**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Victim Services &amp; Rape Crisis Center</th>
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<tr>
<td>352-264-6760 Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-5PM, some services available 24/7</td>
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<tr>
<th>Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network</th>
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<tr>
<td>352-377-8255 (24 hour helpline)</td>
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<th>Report Rape Gainesville</th>
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<td>(information and support even if you do not want to make a report)</td>
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**Academic Resources**

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<th>E-learning technical support</th>
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<tr>
<td>352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to <a href="mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu">Learning-support@ufl.edu</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml">https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Career Resource Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <a href="https://www.crc.ufl.edu/">https://www.crc.ufl.edu/</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Library Support</th>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask">http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask</a>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. [https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/](https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/).

**Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall**, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. [https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/](https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/).
