

JLS 596, Women in Prison
Summer 2002
May 21 - June 27

Instructor

Dr. Robert Johnson
Professor of Justice,
Law & Society

Schedule

Tu, Thur: 5:30-8:40pm
Ward 114

Office

Ward 266
(ext 2951)

Office Hours

Tu & Thur: 3:30 - 5:00pm

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Course Description

The number of women sent to prison in America and much of the western world is growing at a high rate -- higher than that of men -- but comparatively little attention is paid to this public policy choice. This course explores the nature of the prison experience for women, and the ways the prison experience affects them, their loved ones, and society at large.

Texts

Pollock, Jocelyn. Women, Crime and Prison. (Wadsworth, 2001). ISBN: 0534516890
(Pollock, 2002)

Rierden, Andi. The Farm: Life Inside a Woman's Prison. (University of Massachusetts Press, 1997). ISBN 1558490809

Enos, Sandra. Mothering in Prison; Parenting in a Woman's Prison (State Univ of New York Press, 2001) ISBN: 0791448509

O'Brien, Patricia. Making it in the "Free World": Women in Transition from Prison. (State Univ of New York Press, 2001). ISBN: 0791448614

Recommended Books:

Owen, Barbara. In the Mix: Struggle and Survival in a Women's Prison. (State Univ of New York Press, 1998). ISBN: 0791436071.

Girshick, Lori. No Safe Haven: Stories of Women in Prison. (Northeastern University Press, 1999). ISBN:1-55553-467-8)

Cook, Sandy and Susanne Davies (editors). Harsh Punishment: International Experiences of Women's Imprisonment. (Northeastern University Press, 1999). ISBN: 1-55553-411-2

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

- 5/21 Key concepts – nature of prison, gender and crime, gender and prison
- 5/23 Women's incarceration in perspective; women in jail, women in prison. (Pollock, 1-3). Review #1: 500 word review of reading plus two quotations.
- 5/28 & 30 Life in women's prisons today (Pollock, 4-7). Review #2: 500 word review of reading plus two quotations..
- 6/4 Life in women's prisons today (con't) (Rierden, entire book). Review #3: 500 word review of reading plus two quotations
- 6/6 **Field trip**, Maryland Correctional Institution for Women; Warden Maloff, speaker and guide.
- 6/11 Session One: Sexuality in Women's Prisons. **Guest Speaker**, Dr. Elizabeth Morgan. Session Two: Working in Prison (Pollock, 8).
Review #4: 250 word review of reading plus two quotations.
- 6/13 Mothering in Prison (Enos, entire book). **Guest Speaker**, Judy Berman
Review #5: 500 word review of reading plus two quotations.
- 6/18 **Field Trip**, Fairfax Co. Jail. Lt. Jane Corcoran.
- 6/20 Death penalty and other international issues; Prospects for Reform (Pollock, 9-10). Review #6: 500 word review, plus two quotations.
- 6/25** **Field Trip**, Montgomery County Pre-release Center. Making it on release (O'Brien, entire book); Review #7: 500 word review, plus two quotations.
- 6/27 Presentations (term papers)

Grading

Students are responsible for seven reviews (see above). Reviews will be graded S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory). Reviews are worth 50 points, which is 50% of the final grade. If you receive all S's, you get 50 points; each U is worth a minus 5 points. Reviews will be discussed in class.

Each student must also write a term paper. Term papers are worth the remaining 50 points or 50% of the final grade.