

**SOCIOLOGY 530**  
**Victimology, Social Movements, and Gender Violence**  
**SPRING 2010**

Jen Dunn 3428 Faner Hall 453-7625 e-mail: jldunn@siu.edu  
Office Hours: TTh 10:30-11:30, W 9-11, 1:30-2:30, 5-6

**Content and Objectives of the Course**

This course will introduce you to multiple perspectives toward gender violence victimization (GVV), including those in victimology (generally considered a subdiscipline of criminology), sociological social psychology, the sociology of gender, and social constructionist approaches to social problems and social movements. We will learn and take a sociological, analytical approach to social scientific and popular theories of GVV. We will consider the lived experience of victims from an interactionist perspective, examining interactions between victims and victimizers and between victims and criminal justice system actors. We will study the emergence and course of victims' rights movements and survivor movements, and some of the consequences thereof, including alternate ways of defining and responding to victimization. How do various actors come to define people as victims and their experience as victimization? We will explore the claims-making and other strategies that take place in these definitional processes, and the outcomes of these processes for specific cases. How is it that a social phenomenon comes to be seen as victimization? How do people decide what is or is not victimization, and how do they organize to get others to agree? What is at stake in this process? We will examine and learn to apply sociological concepts to contemporary exemplars of victimization, and students will have the opportunity to analyze the special issues associated with selected, specific forms of victimization. By the end of the semester you should be able to meet the following objectives:

- identify and analyze social scientific, feminist, and popular theories of GVV
- understand how GVV is constructed in everyday life and some consequences of this for victims, victims' rights movements, and survivor movements
- critically assess claims about GVV from a social constructionist perspective
- use course concepts to a) analyze the emergence, course, and consequences of a selected form of GVV, or b) analyze social constructions of victims of a selected form of GVV using data you have collected, or c) compare, contrast, and critique the differing perspectives we have learned in terms of their theoretical and analytical utility for research and scholarship on GVV.

**Required Texts**

- Best, Joel. 1990. *Threatened Children: Rhetoric and Concern About Child Victims*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Dunn, Jennifer L. 2010. *Judging Victims: Why We Stigmatize Survivors and How They Reclaim Respect*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Press.
- Ferraro, Kathleen J. 2006. *Neither Angels Nor Demons: Women, Crime, and Victimization*. Boston: Northeastern University Press.
- Martin, Patricia Yancey. 2005. *Rape Work: Victims, Gender, and Emotions in Organization and Community Context*. New York: Routledge.
- Ptacek, James. 1999. *Battered Women in the Courtroom: The Power of Judicial Responses*. Boston: Northeastern University Press.
- Silverman, Sue William. 1996. *Because I Remember Terror, Father, I Remember You*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.
- Sokoloff, Natalie J. and Christina Pratt (eds.). 2008. *Domestic Violence at the Margins: Readings on Race, Class, Gender, and Culture*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

**Course Reader:** Articles on electronic reserve [ER] and available through database searching [e.g., JSTOR, EBSCO] in Morris Library

### **Seminar Requirements And Grading**

1. Regular attendance and active participation in discussion. I especially value participation that is informed by the readings.
2. Completion of all readings on schedule.
3. Serving as discussion leader(s) as assigned. NOTE: students will turn in a **brief** précis (1-2 paragraphs MAXIMUM) for each of the readings they will be presenting, along with 2-3 discussion questions. As these are brief, there is no need to make copies; your fellow students can take notes.
4. Oral presentation of seminar paper. These will be organized as sessions, exactly like those one finds at our annual professional meetings (each presenter will have 15-20 minutes; I will provide guidelines).
5. Seminar paper (due by 6:00 May 5). I will provide guidelines). The paper (of **potential** journal quality and length--20-25 pages) may be one of three types: {1} an analysis of empirical material (if you are currently engaged in research which is yielding data suitable for constructionist analysis (in this case, claims about a type of victim or victimization), {2} an historical analysis of the emergence of a kind of victimization, based on a literature review BEYOND what we read in the seminar, or {3} an analytical essay in which you compare, contrast, and critique the differing perspectives we have learned in terms of their theoretical and analytical utility for research and scholarship on GVV. NOTE: Papers of this last type will be considered—with the authors' permission—for inclusion in edited form in the conclusion of a paper that will appear in *Sociology Compass* (with co-authorship credit).

Grading will be based on presenting, leading, and contribution to discussion (20%), presentation of the seminar paper (5%) and the papers (75%). There will be **no incompletes** except for extraordinary reasons.

### **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

1/20	Introduction to Core Concerns and Technical Matters
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1/27	Traditional Victimologists, Risk Factors, and Victim Precipitation
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Amir, Menachim. 1967. "Victim Precipitated Forcible Rape." *Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology, and Police Science* 58:493-502. [ER]

Weis, C. and S. Borges. 1973. "Victimology and the Case of the Legitimate Victim." *Issues in Criminology* 8(2):71-115. [ER]

Luckenbill, David. 1977. "Criminal Homicide as a Situated Transaction." *Social Problems* 25:176-186. [ER]

Cohen, Lawrence E. and Marcus Felson. 1979. "Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activities Approach." *American Sociological Review* 44:588-608. [ER]

Christie, Nils. 1986. "The Ideal Victim." Pp. 17-30 in *From Crime Policy to Victim Policy*, edited by Ezzat A. Fattah. New York: St. Martin's Press. [ER]

Forde, David R. and Leslie W. Kennedy. 1997. Risky behavior, routine activities, and the General Theory of Crime." *Justice Quarterly* 14(2):265-294

RECOMMENDED:

Kennedy, Leslie W. and Vincent F. Sacco. 1998. "Victims and Criminological Theory." Pps. 93-11 in *Crime Victims in Context*. New York: Roxbury. [ER]

2/3 Structural Explanations: Patriarchy, Feminism, Critical Criminology, and Victims' Rights

Sheffield, L. J. 1987. "Sexual Terrorism: The Social Control of Women." Pp. 171-189 in Beth B. Hess and Myra Marx Ferree, eds., *Analyzing Gender: A Handbook of Social Science Research*. Newbury Park: Sage Publications. [ER]

Stark, Evan and Anne H. Flitcraft. 2005 [1988]. "Women and Children at Risk: A Feminist Perspective on Child Abuse." Pp. 244-265 in Raquel Kennedy Bergen, Jeffrey Edleson, and Claire Renzetti, eds., *Violence Against Women: Classic Papers*. Boston: Pearson.[ER]

Stanko, Elizabeth A. 1995. "Women, Crime, and Fear." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 539:46-58

Whaley, Rachel Bridges. 2001. "The Paradoxical Relationship between Gender Inequality and Rape: Toward a Refined Theory." *Gender & Society* 15(4):531-555

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McShane, Marilyn D. and Frank P. Williams, III. 1992. "Radical Victimology: A Critique of the Concept of Victim in Traditional Victimology." *Crime & Delinquency* 38:258-271.

Weed, Frank J. 1995. "Reform Politics for Crime Victims: Government, Grass Roots, and Grievance." Pp. 1-30 in *Certainty of Justice: Reform in the Crime Victims Movement*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter. [ER]

2/10 Constructing Victims I: Self Processes

Ferraro, Kathleen J. and John M. Johnson. 1983. "How Women Experience Battering: The Process of Victimization." *Social Problems* 30(3):325-39.

Higgenson, Joanna Gregson. 1999. "Defining, Excusing, and Justifying Deviance: Teen Mothers' Accounts for Statutory Rape." *Symbolic Interaction* 22(1):25-44.

DeGloma, Thomas. 2007. "The Social Logic of "False Memories": Symbolic Awakenings and Symbolic Worlds in Survivor and Retractor Narratives." *Symbolic Interaction* 30(4):543-565

Berns, Nancy and David Schweingruber. 2007. "'When You're Involved, It's Just Different': Making Sense of Domestic Violence." *Violence Against Women* 13(3): 240-61.

Dunn, Jennifer L. 2008. "Accounting for Victimization: Social Constructionist Perspectives." *Sociology Compass* 2(5):1601-1620 [ER]

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Silverman, Sue William. 1996. *Because I Remember Terror, Father, I Remember You*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.

2/17 Constructing Victims II: Accomplishing Victimization

Holstein, James A. and Gale Miller. 1990. "Rethinking Victimization: An Interactional Approach to Victimology." *Symbolic Interaction* 13(1):103-122. [ER]

Emerson, Robert M. 1997. "Constructing Serious Violence and Its Victims: Processing a Domestic Violence Restraining Order." Pp. 191-215 in *Social Problems in Everyday Life: Studies of Social Problems Work*, edited by Gale Miller and James A. Holstein. Greenwich, CT: JAI Press. [ER]

Loseke, Donileen R. 2001. "Lived Realities and Formula Stories of 'Battered Women'." Pp. 107-126 in *Institutional Selves: Troubled Identities in Postmodern World*, edited by Jaber F. Gubrium and James A. Holstein. New York: Oxford University Press. [ER]

2/17 Constructing Victims II: Accomplishing Victimization (cont.)

- Dunn, Jennifer L. 2001. "Innocence Lost: Accomplishing Victimization in Intimate Stalking Cases." *Symbolic Interaction* 24(3):285-313 [ER]
- Konradi, Amanda. 2007. "I Wanted There to Be No Question." Pp. 80-96 in *Taking the Stand: Rape Survivors and the Prosecution of Rapists*. Westport, CT: Praeger. [ER]

2/24 Constructing Victims III: In Social Problems Claims-Making

- Pfohl, Stephen J. 1977. "The 'Discovery' of Child Abuse." *Social Problems* 24(3):310-23.
- Johnson, John M. 1995. "Horror Stories and the Construction of Child Abuse." Pp. 17-31 in *Images of Issues: Typifying Contemporary Social Problems*, edited by Joel Best. New York: Aldine de Gruyter. [ER]
- Best, Joel. 1999. "Random Violence." Pp. 1-27 in *Random Violence: How We Talk About New Crimes and New Victims*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [ER]
- Berns, Nancy. 2001. "Degendering the Problem and Gendering the Blame: Political Discourse on Women and Violence." *Gender & Society* 15(2): 262-81.
- .....
- Best, Joel. 1990. *Threatened Children: Rhetoric and Concern About Child Victims*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

3/3 Constructing Victims IV: In Survivor Movements' Framing

- Rose, Vicki McNickle. 1977. "Rape as a Social Problem: A Byproduct of the Feminist Movement." *Social Problems* 25(1):75-89.
- Tierney, Kathleen J. 1982. "The Battered Women Movement and the Creation of the Wife Beating Problem." *Social Problems* 29(3):207-20.
- Jeness, V. (1995). "Social Movement Growth, Domain Expansion, and Framing Processes: The Gay/Lesbian Movement and Violence Against Gays and Lesbians as a Social Problem." *Social Problems* 42:145-170. [ER]
- Lowney, Kathleen S. and Joel Best. 1995. "Stalking Strangers and Lovers: Changing Media Typifications of a New Crime Problem." Pp. 33-57 in *Images of Issues: Typifying Contemporary Social Problems*, edited by Joel Best. New York: Aldine de Gruyter. [ER]
- Best, Joel. 1997. "Victimization and the Victim Industry." *Society* 34:9-17. [ER]
- Davis, Joseph E. 2005. "Victim Narratives and Victim Selves: False Memory Syndrome and the Power of Accounts." *Social Problems* 52(4):529-548.

3/17 New Versions of Victims I: Moving Beyond the "Pernicious Dichotomy"

- Alcoff, Linda, and Laura Gray. 1993. "Survivor Discourse: Transgression or Recuperation?" *Signs* 18(2):260-290.
- Lamb, Sharon. 1999. "Constructing the Victim: Popular Images and Lasting Labels." Pp. 108-138 in *New Versions of Victims: Feminists Struggle with the Concept*, edited by Sharon Lamb. New York: New York University Press. [ER]
- Atmore, Chris. 1999. "Victims, Backlash, and Radical Feminist Theory (or, The Morning After They Stole Feminism's Fire)." Pp. 183-212 in *New Versions of Victims: Feminists Struggle with the Concept*, edited by Sharon Lamb. New York: New York University Press. [ER]
- Hollander, Jocelyn. 2002. "Resisting Vulnerability: The Social Reconstruction of Gender in Interaction." *Social Problems* 49(4):474-496.

3/17 New Versions of Victims: Moving Beyond the "Pernicious Dichotomy" (cont.)

Picart, Caroline Joan (Kay) S. 2003. "Rhetorically Reconfiguring Victimhood and Agency: The Violence Against Women Act's Civil Rights Clause." *Rhetoric and Public Affairs* 6(1):97-126.  
Leisenring, Amy. 2006. "Confronting 'Victim' Discourses: The Identity Work of Battered Women." *Symbolic Interaction* 29(3): 307-30.

3/24 New Versions of Victims II

Ferraro, Kathleen J. 2006. *Neither Angels Nor Demons: Women, Crime, and Victimization*. Boston: Northeastern University Press.

3/31 Contexts and Consequences I: Institutionalized Sexism and Revictimization

Ptacek, James. 1999. *Battered Women in the Courtroom: The Power of Judicial Responses*. Boston: Northeastern University Press.

CHOOSE ONE:

Lisa Frohmann. 1998. "Constituting Power in Sexual Assault Cases: Prosecutorial Strategies for Victim Management." *Social Problems* 45(3):393-407.  
Barker, Vanessa. 2007. The Politics of Pain: A Political Institutional Analysis of Crime Victims' Moral Protests. *Law & Society Review* 41 (3): 619-664  
Hlavka, Heather R., Candace Kruttschnitt, and Kristen C. Carbone-Lopez. 2007. "Revictimizing the Victim? Interviewing Women About Interpersonal Violence." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 22(7): 894-920  
Campbell, Rebecca. 2008. "The Psychological Impact of Rape Victims." *American Psychologist* 63(8):702-717

4/7 Contexts and Consequences I (cont.)

Martin, Patricia Yancey. 2005. *Rape Work: Victims, Gender, and Emotions in Organization and Community Context*. New York: Routledge.  
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Konradi, Amanda. 2007. "Moving Toward More Justice for Rape Survivors in the Criminal Process." Pp. 177-201 in *Taking the Stand: Rape Survivors and the Prosecution of Rapists*. Westport, CT: Praeger. [ER]

4/14 Contexts and Consequences II: Inequalities, Intersections, and Multiple Victimitizations

Sokoloff, Natalie J. and Christina Pratt (eds.). 2008. *Domestic Violence at the Margins: Readings on Race, Class, Gender, and Culture*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. Pp. 1-205

4/21 Contexts and Consequences II (cont)

Sokoloff and Pratt, pp. 206-431

4/28 Contexts and Consequences III: Culture, Emotions, and Identity Work

Dunn, Jennifer L. 2010. *Judging Victims: Why We Stigmatize Survivors and How They Reclaim Respect*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Press.

5/5 Student Presentations (Conference Session Style)