

## **SOCIOLOGY 462/AJ 462: VICTIMS OF CRIME/FALL SEMESTER 2010**

MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am Lawson Hall 121

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Office Hours: Mon 8:30-9:30, 11:30-2:30, Wed 8:30-9:30, Fri 8:30-9:30  
(and by appointment)

### **Content and Objectives of the Course**

This course will introduce you to the definition and study of criminal victimization. We will learn and take a sociological, analytical approach to social scientific and popular theories of victimization, including ideas about its extent, nature, causes and effects. 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 the victims' rights movement and of selected forms of victimization, and 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 an experience of victimization, and students will have the opportunity to learn about the special issues associated with selected, specific forms of victimization, such as intimate partner abuse, white collar crime, and hate crimes. By the end of the semester you should be able to meet the following objectives:

- identify and analyze social scientific and popular theories of victimization.
- understand how victimization is constructed in everyday life and some consequences of this for victims and the victims' rights movement
- critically assess claims about victimization
- use course concepts to analyze the experience of an individual victim
- see improvements in your critical thinking and expository writing skills

### **Required Texts**

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

Raine, Nancy Venable. 1999. After the Silence: Rape & My Journey Back. New York: Three Rivers Press.

Tobolowsky, Peggy, Mario Gaboury, Arrick Jackson, and Ashley Blackburn. 2009. Crime Victims' Rights and Remedies (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Course Reader: Articles on electronic reserve [ER] in Morris Library

## Requirements and Grading

### Participation and Attendance:

I expect students to attend class every day and to come to class on Mondays having reviewed the assigned readings for that week, which we will discuss with greater specificity as the week progresses. Obviously, students often have other priorities or circumstances that interfere with meeting these expectations. I keep track of attendance, participation in classroom discussions—especially contributions that draw upon the reading!—and visits to my office, all of which I take into consideration if your final grade is borderline. The more often you are here, participate, and come see me if needed, the more likely I am to raise a borderline grade. The more frequently you are absent without telling me why, you come in late, or your cell phone rings, the less likely I am to raise a borderline grade.

### Unit Examinations: (75 points total, 15 points each)

These are five (5) in-class examinations that are based on the readings and lecture up to the date of the exam. The format will be a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. Make-up exams can only be taken by prearrangement and are 5-7 page papers on the same material.

### Comprehensive Take-Home Final Exam: (25 points)

The final exam is a take-home paper that you will write using the memoir, After the Silence: Rape & My Journey Back, by Nancy Raine. Ms. Raine's story will serve as data for an analysis that draws upon of the course materials; specifically the concepts and processes that you will be learning about as the course progresses. I will provide detailed instructions and guidelines as well as a series of questions for you to answer. Length: 3000-3500 words (10-12 pages).

**Due:** electronic submission by midnight Friday December 17th

### EXTRA CREDIT POSSIBILITY: Annotated Bibliographies: (1-3 points each, 6 points maximum)

If at any time during the semester you wish to earn extra credit, you may construct an annotated bibliography based on one of the articles or chapters in the Electronic Reader. Instructions for the annotated bibliography entries are attached. Bibliographies may be turned in at any time but will NOT be accepted after the last day of class (Friday December 10th.)

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

8/23-8/27	Introduction to Victimology, Claimsmaking, and Victims' Rights
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8/30-9/3	Claims-makers I: Victimologists
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"Victims and Criminological Theory" from Crime Victims in Context [ER]

9/6-9/10 Claims-makers II: Victimologists (cont.)

- Amir, Menachim. 1967. "Victims Precipitate Forcible Rape." Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology, and Police Science 58:493-502. [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]

**(Exam 1 Friday 9/10)**

9/13-9/17 Claims-makers III: Cultural and Structural Explanations

- Ferraro Ch. 1-2

9/20-9/24 Claims-makers IV: Interactionist Explanations

- Luckenbill, David. 1977. "Criminal Homicide as a Situated Transaction." Social Problems 25:176-186. [ER]
- Ferraro Ch. 3

9/27-10/1 Social Constructionist Approaches

- Dunn, Jennifer L. 2008. "Accounting for Victimization: Social Constructionist Perspectives" [ER]

**(Exam 2 Friday 10/1)**

10/4-10/8 Historical Analyses I: Victim Reform Movements

- Weed, Frank J. 1995. "Reform Politics for Crime Victims: Government, Grass Roots, and Grievance" from Certainty of Justice: Reform in the Crime Victims Movement. [ER]
- Tobolowsky et al. Ch. 1

10/11-10/15 Historical Analyses II: New Victims and Victimization

- Jenness, 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]
- "Stalking Strangers and Lovers" from Images of Issues, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. [ER]
- Ferraro Ch. 5-6

**(Exam 3 Friday 10/15)**

10/18-10/22 Social Problems Work I: Typifications of Victims and Victimization

- "Horror Stories and the Construction of Child Abuse" from Images of Issues, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. [ER].
- "Random Violence" from Random Violence [ER].

10/25-10/29 Social Problems Work II: Accomplishing Victimization

- Holstein, James A. and Gale Miller. 1990. "Rethinking Victimization: An Interactional Approach to Victimology." Symbolic Interaction 13(1):103-122. [ER]
- "I Wanted There to Be No Question" from Taking the Stand. [ER]

**(Exam 4 Friday 10/29)**

11/8-11/12 Responding to Victims I: Revictimization

- Lisa Frohmann. 1998. "Constituting Power in Sexual Assault Cases: Prosecutorial Strategies for Victim Management." Social Problems Vol. 45, No. 3 pp. 393-407.
- Campbell, Rebecca and Sheela Raja. 2005. "The Sexual Assault And Secondary Victimization Of Female Veterans: Help-Seeking Experiences With Military And Civilian Social Systems." Psychology of Women Quarterly 29 (1), pp. 97-106. [Wiley-Blackwell, EBSCO]
- Ferraro Ch. 4

11/15-11/19 Responding to Victims II: Alternatives

- "Moving Toward More Justice" in *Taking the Stand*. [ER]

**(Guest Speaker Friday 11/19)**

11/16-11/20 Responding to Victims III: Rights and Remedies

- Tobolowsky et al. Ch. 2-6

11/29-12/3 Responding to Victims IV: Rights and Remedies

- Tobolowsky et al. Ch. 7-11

12/6-12/10 Application and Review

- Begin reading After the Silence: Rape & My Journey Back for take-home final

12/17 **Exam 5 10:10-12:10**

**(Take-home final due 12/17 by midnight, submit electronically)**