

Violence Against Women

WST 3930

Instructor:

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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

Holly Johnson, Natalia Ollus and Sammi Nevala (2008) *Violence Against Women: An International Perspective* New York: Springer (available as an e-book in the university library catalog) e-ISBN: 978-0-387-73204-6

Kennedy Bergen, R.L., Edleson, J.L. & Renzetti, C.M. (eds) (2005) *Violence Against Women: Classic Papers*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon (this collection is of pioneering papers and we will refer to several)

PDFs of weekly required reading will be available in Canvas

Recommended Materials (all available in the library)

Liz Kelly (1988) *Surviving Sexual Violence* Cambridge: Polity Press

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.

	Topic	Reading
Week 1 8 th Jan	What is Violence Against Women? Definitions and Understandings	M: None. Welcome and Introduction session W: Catharine MacKinnon 'Human Rights and Global Violence Against Women' ch 2 in <i>'Are Women Human?'</i> (2006)

		F: 'Violence Against Women Worldwide' ch 1 in <i>Violence Against Women: An International Perspective</i> (2008)
Week 2 15 th Jan	Extent of VAW	M: NO CLASS (Martin Luther King day) W 'The Prevalence and Severity of Violence Against Women' ch 3 in <i>Violence Against Women: An International Perspective</i> (2008) F: NONE. Class TBC
Week 3 22 nd Jan	Conceptual perspectives	M: bell hooks 'Ending Violence' in <i>Feminism is for Everybody: A Passionate Politics</i> (2000) W & F: Liz Kelly 'It's everywhere': sexual violence as a continuum (2) ch 5 in <i>Surviving Sexual Violence</i> (1988)
Week 4 29 th Jan	Domestic/intimate partner violence	M: <i>The Power and Control Wheel</i> and <i>Equality Wheel</i> (PDFs in Canvas) W: Evan Stark (2013) Coercive Control in Nancy Lombard and Lesley McMillan (eds.) <i>Violence Against Women</i> London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers F: 'Disclosing Violence to Police and Other Supports' ch 6 in ' <i>Violence Against Women: An International Perspective</i> ' (2008) CLASS QUIZ
Week 5 5 th Feb	Sexual violence	M: Martha Burt (1998) Rape Myths in Mary E. Odem and Jody Clay-Warner (eds.) <i>Confronting Rape and Sexual Assault</i> Oxford: Scholarly Resources W: Liz Kelly 'I'm not sure what to call it but' ... defining sexual violence ch 6 in <i>Surviving Sexual Violence</i> (1988) F: NONE. Class viewing of ' <i>I'd just like to be free</i> ' by Imkaan/End Violence Against Women and group discussion
Week 6 12 th Feb	Violence against women in the family SUBMISSION OF REFLECTIVE BLOG (FRIDAY, BEGINNING OF CLASS)	M: Judith Herman 'Reflection: Afterword, 2000: Understanding Incest Twenty Years Later' and Carolyn M. West 'Reflection' on Gail Wyatt (1985) The Sexual Abuse of Afro-American and White-American Women in Childhood' BOTH in <i>Violence Against Women: Classic Papers</i> . W: Sally Engle Merry Violent "Cultural" Practices in the Family ch 6 in <i>Gender and Violence: A Cultural Perspective</i> (2008) F: Nicole Westmarland 'Female Genital Mutilation' ch 8 in <i>Violence Against Women: Criminological Perspectives on Men's Violences</i> (2015)
Week 7 19 th Feb	Sexual exploitation	M: Introduction: Prostitution Survivors Speak Out in Caroline Norma and Melinda Tankard Reist (eds) <i>Prostitution Narratives: Stories of Survival in the Sex Trade</i> PLUS one survivor story (2016) W: <i>From "Sex Work" Advocate to Survivor Leader: A Journey Embraced</i> (weblink in Canvas)

		F: Catharine MacKinnon 'Trafficking, Prostitution, and Inequality' (2009) (PDF in Canvas)
Week 8 26 th Feb	Femicide	M: Karen Ingala Smith 'Counting Dead Women' (link to blog in Canvas) W: Mabel Encinas (2016) <i>Femicide in Mexico and Guatemala Open Democracy</i> (link in Canvas) F: IN CLASS EXAM
Week 9 5 th March	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS
Week 10 12 th March	VAW in conflict and emergency contexts	M: Dara Kay Cohen, Amelia Hoover Green, and Elisabeth Jean Wood (2013) <i>Wartime Sexual Violence: Misconceptions, Implications, and Ways Forward</i> (PDF in Canvas) W: Kay Standing, Sara Parker & Sapana Bista (2016) Grassroots responses to violence against women and girls in post-earthquake Nepal: lessons from the field <i>Gender & Development</i> 24:2 187-204 F: NONE. Discussion of next assignment
Week 11 19 th March	Impacts of violence against women SUBMISSION OF THIRD ASSIGNMENT: ANALYSIS OF A MEDIA REPORT ON VAW (media report will be provided in Canvas)	M: 'The Impact and Consequences of Violence for Women' ch 4 in <i>Violence Against Women: An International Perspectives</i> (2008) W: Susan Brison (2008) Everyday Atrocities and Ordinary Miracles, or Why I (Still) Bear Witness to Sexual Violence (But Not Too Often) <i>Women's Studies Quarterly</i> 36 (1&2) 188-198 F: GUEST SPEAKER: SPECIALIST VAW SERVICE
Week 12 26 th March	Perpetrators	M: Diana Scully and Joseph Marolla "'Riding the Bull at Gilley's": Convicted Rapists Describe the Rewards of Rape (1985) Ch 20 in R.K. Bergen, J.L. Edleson, Renzetti, C (eds) <i>Violence Against Women: Classic Papers</i> (2005) W: Kelly, L. and Westmarland, N. (2016) 'Naming and defining 'domestic violence': lessons from research with violent men', <i>Feminist Review</i> 112 (1) 113-127 F: NONE. Interactive class discussion of a multi-level model for understanding perpetration by Carol Hagemann White and colleagues
Week 13 2 nd April	Law and public policy on VAW	M: Alice Edwards 'Violence Against Women under International Law: Progress to Date' pages 7-12 <i>Violence Against Women under International Human Rights Law</i> (2011) W: <i>Twenty Years of the Violence Against Women Act: Dispatches from the Field</i> (PDF in Canvas) F: GUEST SPEAKER: SPECIALIST VAW SERVICE
Week 14 9 th 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)

		<p>W: <i>Self-Care or Speaking Out? A Black Feminist Dilemma</i> (blog by Claire Heuchan, Sister Outrider, weblink in Canvas)</p> <p>F: Ruth Lewis, Michael Rowe and Claire Wiper (2017) <i>Online Abuse of Feminists as an Emerging Form of Violence Against Women And Girls</i> British Journal of Criminology 57 1462-1481</p>
Week 15 16 th April	Feminist activism	<p>M: Finn Mackay From Brussels to Leeds, San Francisco, Delhi: The global march of Reclaim the Night in <i>Radical Feminism: Feminist Activism in Movement</i> ch 4 (2015)</p> <p>W: Mona Eltahawy 'One Hand Against Women' in <i>Headscarves and Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution</i></p> <p>F: Srila Roy (2016) <i>Breaking the Cage Dissent</i> Fall 2016 (Link in Canvas)</p>
Week 16 23 rd April	Preventing VAW	<p>M: Michael Flood (2015) Work with men to end violence against women: a critical stocktake <i>Culture, Health & Sexuality</i> 17 (2) 159-176</p> <p>W: NONE. Class viewing of presentation by Marai Larasi, Imkaan/End Violence Against Women</p> <p>Closing discussion</p> <p>SUBMISSION OF NARRATED POWERPOINT PRESENTATION</p>
	Final assessment due – narrated PowerPoint presentation	

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 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.

Assignment	Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Class quiz	10	10%
Reflective learning blog	25	25%
Class exam	10	20%
Analysis of media article	20	20%
Narrated presentation	25	25%
TOTAL	100	100

FINAL GRADE

At the end of the semester, final grades will be determined by the following formula:

94 and more points = A	80-83 points = B-	67-69 points = D+
90-93 points = A-	77-79 points = C+	64-66 points = D
87-89 points = B+	74-76 points = C	60-63 points = D-
84-86 points = B	70-73 points = C-	59 and fewer points = E

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/sccr/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

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Specialist support

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center 352-264-6760 Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-5PM, some services available 24/7

Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network 352-377-8255 (24 hour helpline)

Report Rape Gainesville (information and support even if you do not want to make a report)

<http://www.reportrapegainesville.org/>

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.

<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.