

GENDER VIOLENCE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, & LAW (3 credits)

Law 180 A

Professor Donna Coker

Thursday, 3:30-6:20

COURSE OVERVIEW & FIRST CLASS ASSIGNMENT

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Required reading: Required reading will be posted on TWEN or otherwise distributed electronically. Syllabus readings are available on TWEN unless otherwise indicated.

Course Overview – We will ground our discussion in an expansive definition of “gender violence” to include violence that is the result of gender hierarchies, intended to maintain gender hierarchies, or intended to or has the effect of policing and punishing gender non-conformity. Our focus will be on law, policy, and activism related to domestic violence /intimate partner violence (DV/IPV), sexual assault (SA), sexual harassment (SH), and sex trafficking.

We will examine the impact on experiences of gender violence of structural inequalities related to sex, race, class, immigration status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. This requires an examination of law and policy in the areas of immigration, economics, child welfare, civil law, civil rights, and criminal legal systems. The course will examine the large policy debates in the field including the centrality of criminal law response (and mandatory arrest/no drop DV policies) compared to less punitive responses and community-based responses; decriminalization of prostitution versus abolition; the various positions on appropriate campus responses to sexual harm. We will also examine “alternative” responses including restorative justice.

We will examine gender violence perpetrated by state actors (e.g., law enforcement, prison guards) as well as by private individuals. We will examine growing feminist concerns about the ways in which work to end gender violence is centered on criminal legal system responses. Alliances between anti-violence activists and racial justice organizations such as Black Lives Matter highlight the problems of racialized state violence against poor people of color and in particular, the lack of protection afforded poor women of color.

The course will move from discussions of policy and legal theory to practice oriented exercises. We will have occasional field trips, including a visit to Miami-Dade County’s Domestic

Violence Court. Field trips are in lieu of a regularly scheduled class and will be announced well ahead of time.

A syllabus and course requirements will be available on TWEN.

First Class Reading Assignment – *What is Gender Violence?*

What is Gender Violence? Notes & Questions (2 pages)

National Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Survey 2015 Data Brief – Updated Release (2018) by the National Center for Injury Prevention & Control, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention,

Rashida Manjoo, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Its Causes & Consequences, Mission to the United States*, Human Rights Council (June 6, 2011).

Donna Coker, Leigh Goodmark, Marcia Olivo, *Introduction: CONVERGE! Reimagining the Movement to End Gender Violence*, 5 U. MIAMI RACE & SOC. JUST. L. REV. 249 (2015), excerpt.

Andrea Ritchie, *et al.*, *Plenary 2-Redefining Gender Violence*, 5 U. MIAMI RACE & SOC. JUST. L. REV. 289 (2015).

Angela Harris, *Heteropatriarchy Kills: Challenging Gender Violence in a Prison Nation*, 37 Wash. U. J.L. & Pol’y 13 (2011), excerpt.

Beth Richie, *Queering Antiprison Work: African American Lesbians in the Juvenile Justice System in GLOBAL LOCKDOWN: RACE, GENDER, AND THE PRISON-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX* (Julia Sudbury ed. 2005) 73-85.

Julie Goldscheid, *Gender Neutrality and the “Violence Against Women” Frame*, 5 U. MIAMI RACE & SOC. JUST. L. REV. 307 (2015).