

WS 2013: Introduction to Women's Studies
Final Essay Prompt: The Criminalization of Women and LGBTQIA+ Communities
Deadline: Friday, May 15 at 11:59 pm in Blackboard

This take-home essay will encourage you to *synthesize* the material presented over the course of the semester. This assignment evaluates the **Social Responsibility** learning objective; you will explore how gender and sexuality ideologies and criminal justice institutions produce social, political, and economic inequalities on local, national, and global levels for women and LGBTQIA+ communities.

MLA Paper Requirements:

- 3-4 double-spaced pages; 20 words over or under is fine
- Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins on each side of the document
- Include a Title and Works Cited page
- Include a header in the upper right-hand corner of the page, listing your name followed by a space with the page number

Required Sources:

- Julia Sudbury's "Women of Color, Globalization, and the Politics of Criminalization" (p. 452 in textbook)
- Eric A. Stanley's "Introduction: Fugitive Flesh: Gender Self-Determination, Queer Abolition, and Trans Resistance," from *Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex* (PDF)
- *Southwest of Salem: The Story of the San Antonio Four* (documentary film- see Kanopy)
- One outside source (organizational report, news article, documentary, peer-reviewed article, book, zine, personal communication)

Writing Prompt:

We have discussed how the interplay between ideologies and institutions produces social, political, and economic inequalities for women and LGBTQIA+ communities on individual, community, national, and global levels. Using the above readings, address the following prompt in a 3-4 page, double-spaced analytical essay. Be sure to incorporate the above sources into your response and use examples from the texts to support your claims.

- How is the prison industrial complex (PIC) shaped by ideologies about gender, sexuality, crime and punishment, and justice?
- How does the PIC (re)produce social, political, and economic inequalities for women and LGBTQIA+ communities at the individual, community, national, and global levels? Address the effects of mass incarceration and how the PIC disproportionately targets women, people of color, queer people, and/or working class people. What is the connection between women's mass incarceration and the global feminization of poverty?
- Finally, discuss alternatives to the PIC (prison reform, de-carceration, abolition). Provide support for your re-imagination of the criminal justice system building on the authors' perspectives.

Grading Criteria:

You will be graded on your ability to:

- 1) clearly state and comprehensively describe the criminalization of women and gender non-binary communities,
- 2) interpret/evaluate ideas in order to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis,
- 3) analyze thoroughly one's own and others' assumptions and carefully evaluate the relevance of contexts when presenting a position,
- 4) imaginatively take a specific position and consider the complexities of the issues; acknowledge limits of your position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis),
- 5) present logical conclusions and related outcomes that reflect your informed evaluations and ability to place evidence and perspectives discussed in prioritized order.

******Optional Assignment******

Students can opt to create a narrated PowerPoint or webinar in the style of a Ted Talk instead of a paper. Your 18-20 minute presentation will need to address the same prompt, use the required sources, and follow the same grading criteria.