

Course Outline

CRCJ 4002A: Special Topics: Masculinity, Crime, and Victimization

Fall 2026

Instructor: Adina Ilea, PhD

Office Hours: By appointment

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CLASS: Online, Asynchronous with in-person, on campus evaluations (see below)

Link to Brightspace course page: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/449242>

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses: CRCJ 2100, fourth-year standing, and enrollment in a B.A. or Minor in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & AFFIRMATION

ANISHNABE

Ni manàdjiyànànig Màmìwininì Anishinàbeg, ogog kà nàgadawàbandadjig iyo akì eko weshkad. Ako nongom ega wikàd kì migiwewàdj.

Ni manàdjiyànànig kakina Anishinàbeg ondaje kaye ogog kakina eniyagizidjig enigokamigàg Kanadàng eji ondàpinangig endàwàdjìn Odàwàng.

Ninìsidawinawànànig kenawendamòdjig kije kikenindamàwin; weshkinìgidjig kaye kejeyàdizidjig.

Nigijeweninmànànig ogog kà nìgànì sòngideyedjig; weshkad, nongom; kaye àyànikàdj.

ENGLISH

We pay respect to the Algonquin people, who are the traditional guardians of this land. We acknowledge their longstanding relationship with this territory, which remains unceded.

We pay respect to all Indigenous people in this region, from all nations across Canada, who call Ottawa home.

We acknowledge the traditional knowledge keepers, both young and old.

And we honour their courageous leaders: past, present, future

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Both arrest data and self-report data has consistently shown us that men commit more crime than women. Men are also more likely to be the victims of violent crime than women. Yet criminology, as a discipline, has historically ignored these findings by presenting men as the ‘normal subjects’ and ignoring the gendered aspect of their behaviour and experiences. In this course we will explore various subjects related to masculinity, crime, and victimization. The first part of the course focuses on masculinity theories, men’s experiences of crime and imprisonment, while the second part of the course focuses on male victimization, as well as institutional violence against men.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

- This course is offered fully on-line, asynchronously. However, certain evaluations (the mid-term test and final exam) are in-person, on campus.

- A narrated PowerPoint Presentation (PPT) will be made available on Brightspace every Tuesday by 5:00 PM. Each PPT will correspond with the assigned readings for that day.
- For each class, students will be required to do the corresponding readings (see readings schedule below). In addition, students may be asked to watch documentaries, listen to podcasts and read relevant news stories (links included in the PPT or in Brightspace).
- Please see the **evaluation section** below for a complete breakdown of the various components of evaluation.
- Please note that both the mid-term exam and the final exam are based on both lecture content (including documentaries, podcasts, clips, and news stories), AND the readings. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to keep up with the readings each week.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through the lectures and assigned readings, and engagement with each other students will be able to think critically about gender, masculinity, crime and victimization. The online discussion component of the course will allow students to engage with each other, share ideas and develop their critical thinking skills. The final essay will enable students to demonstrate their ability to conduct research in an area related to masculinity and crime/victimization.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy for this course:

For this course, AI tools are not allowed. While you are encouraged to use traditional Microsoft Word tools such as spell check, no other AI tools are allowed (not even Copilot).

Documenting AI use: It is not necessary to document the use of AI for the permitted purposes listed above (limited to spell check). If you have questions about a specific use of AI, please contact the course instructor.

I have adopted this policy to ensure your written assignments reflect your voice, ideas, and the knowledge you have accumulate in this course. The goal of restricted AI use in a fourth-year course is to help you develop foundational skills in writing and critical thinking by practicing writing your own content without the use of AI. Ultimately, if you rely on yourself, not AI, you will learn more from this course.

Reading (s)/Textbook (s):

Students are not required to purchase a textbook or other learning materials for this course. All the readings will be provided on Brightspace (under Ares Reserves). Additional short readings (usually news articles or op-ed pieces) may be included in the PowerPoint lecture. Students are responsible for all content, including podcasts, films, short clips, and news articles included in the syllabus and /or in the lectures.

- ⇒ Please carefully read the course schedule at the end of this syllabus for the weekly assigned material and evaluation components.

EVALUATION

Assigned readings, PowerPoint lectures, including any podcasts, news articles, film or other media clips are considered course material and the information they contain may be included in the exams.

REFLECTION (15%)

The reflection assignment has two parts (part one is pass/fail and part two is worth 15%).

First, students will be tasked with writing an initial reflection of what they believe / know about masculinity, crime, and victimization. This first part of the reflection is due on **Monday, September 21** by 11:59PM. Late submissions will not be accepted.

No outside research is required; this is simply a way to document your initial knowledge of the course topic, which you will use for the second part of the assignment. Specific instructions will be provided on the first day of the course. Please note that the second part of the reflection will not be accepted without the completion of this initial first reflection

The second part of the reflection is due **Tuesday, November 10** by 11:59PM. For the second part, students will reflect on a particular reading from the course and provide a well-thought-out reflection on the impact of the reading on their thoughts and beliefs on masculinity and crime. Students should consider, and refer to, their initial reflection in this second, more developed reflection. The assignment should use proper in-text citations and include a reference page. No outside research is required (nor allowed) for this assignment. Specific instructions will be provided during the second week of the course.

ONLINE DISCUSSION (15%)

Students will be expected to participate in the two discussions on Brightspace. Prompts will be provided. More information on how to participate in online discussions and expectations will be provided during the first week of the course.

Each discussion will be open for a limited time as scheduled:

Discussion #1 will open on Tuesday, September 29 at 5:00PM and will close Monday, October 12 at 11:59PM

Discussion #2 will open Tuesday, November 17 at 5:00PM and will close Monday, November 30 at 11:59PM

MID-TERM TEST (35%) – IN-PERSON, ON CAMPUS

The mid-term test will take place during week eight of the course. Please note that the test will be in-person, on campus, and could be scheduled during evenings and/or weekends, depending on space availability. The test will be scheduled by Scheduling and Examination Services (SES). The test will consist of multiple-choice questions and written-answer questions and will cover all course material since the beginning of the semester.

We can expect to know the exact date and time of the test by the fourth week of the course.

Accommodations will be made for students registered with PMC.

Students who miss the mid-term test should contact the course instructor within 24 hours. A makeup test may be approved based on circumstances; please note that the makeup test will be scheduled by Scheduling and Examination Services (SES) and may be scheduled during the day, evening, weekdays, and weekends.

FINAL EXAM (35%) – IN-PERSON, ON CAMPUS

The final exam will take place in-person, on campus, during the final exam period. The final exam is scheduled by the university and can fall on any day during the final exam period (see below). The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions covering the entirety of the course content and written-answer questions covering course work since the mid-term test.

The final exam period for fall courses will be December 12-23, 2026. Please make sure that you do not make work or travel plans that will prohibit you being able to write the final exam. The final exam will take place on campus. Students are required to be on campus, in-person. Make sure you have a valid student card with you at the exam.

Students who miss the final exam may apply for a deferral through the Registrar's office. Link here: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/deferral/>

DISTANCE OPTION:

This course has a distance option for evaluations. Make sure you understand the criteria you need to meet for this option. Please note that the course instructor is NOT involved in this process, and you must make your own arrangements through examination services for this option:

*Students who are studying remotely or are varsity athletes with in-person tests or exams can apply to write their exam off-campus if they will be at least **160 km** away from campus on the exam day and meet the course requirements for distance exams. There is a fee for this service, and all exams must be proctored. The deadline to apply for a distance exam for the fall term is **TBA**.*

You can find the **Distance Exam Request Form** here:

<https://carleton.ca/ses/examination-services/distance-exams/>

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

PLAGIARISM

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and

- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

STATEMENT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

As a University student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a link to information about all of the resources, both on campus and off, that you may find helpful: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes can be found at the below link:

<https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course	DEF = Deferred	

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATES	Topics	Readings to be done BEFORE class
Week 1: Tuesday, Sept. 15	Introduction to course	• Syllabus: expectations, course evaluations, and readings. • Reflection assignment explained and specific instructions for part one provided. • Expectations and instructions for online discussion will be provided. • First part of reflection assignment due Monday, September 21 at 11:59PM Pass/ Fail; Late submissions will NOT be accepted.

Week 2: Tuesday, Sept. 22	An introduction to gender & masculinity in criminology	• Chapter 1: Gender and criminological theory in Messerschmidt, J. W. (1993). <i>Masculinities and crime: Critique and reconceptualization of theory</i>. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. (pp. 1-29). • Xuenan Zhao & Steven Roberts (2026) To hell with toxic masculinity?: A case for retaining a debated concept, <i>Journal of Gender Studies</i>, 35:2, 422-432, DOI: 10.1080/09589236.2025.2493260
Week 3: Tuesday, September 29	Masculinity & violence towards self and towards marginalized men	• Allison, K., & Klein, B. R. (2021). Pursuing Hegemonic Masculinity Through Violence: An Examination of Anti-Homeless Bias Homicides. <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i>, 36 (13–14) • Podcast: Episode 40 of Crackdown: <i>Boys don't cry</i>. Link here • Discussion #1 opens today and closes Monday, October 12, at 11:59PM.
Week 4: Tuesday, October 6	Masculinity & Violence women and racialized men	• Halpin M, Preston K, Lockyer D, Maguire F. (2024). A solidier and a victim: Masculinity, violence, and incels celebration of December 6th. <i>Canadian Review of Sociology</i>. 61(1), 7-24. • The Fifth Estate Documentary: <i>Dear Mr. Bissonnette</i> link here • Discussion #1 closes Monday, October 12 at 11:59PM

Week 5: Tuesday, October 13	Youth, criminalization, racialized identities and masculinity	- Rios, V., & Sarabia, R. (2016). Synthesized masculinities: The mechanics of manhood among delinquent boys. <i>Exploring masculinities: Identity, inequality, continuity, and change</i>, 166-77. - Henry, R. (2015). Social spaces of maleness: The role of street gangs in practicing Indigenous masculinities. <i>Indigenous men and masculinities: Legacies, identities, regeneration</i>, 181-196.
Week 6: Tuesday, October 20	Policing, racialized identities and masculinity	- Carlson, J. (2020). Police warriors and police guardians: Race, masculinity, and the construction of gun violence. <i>Social Problems</i>, 67(3), 399-417. - Smiley, Calvin John, and David Fakunle. "From 'Brute' to 'Thug:' The Demonization and Criminalization of Unarmed Black Male Victims in America." <i>Journal of human behavior in the social environment</i> 26.3-4 (2016): 350–366.
Week 7: Tuesday, October 27	Fall Break	No class/ no readings
Week 8: MID- TERM TEST		There is no lecture this week; the mid-term test (35%) will be scheduled by SES and could be on an evening or weekend this week The test will consist of multiple-choice questions and written-answer questions and will cover all course material since the beginning of the semester.

Week 9: Tuesday, November 10	Imprisonment	- Gooch, K. (2019). Kidulthood': Ethnography, juvenile prison violence and the transition from 'boys' to 'men. <i>Criminology & Criminal Justice</i>, 19(1), 80-97. - Stephanie J. Morse & Kevin A. Wright (2022) Imprisoned Men: Masculinity Variability and Implications for Correctional Programming, <i>Corrections</i>, 7:1, 23-45, DOI: 10.1080/23774657.2019.1694854 - Short documentary: Preventing recidivism by unlearning toxic masculinity link here - Reflection PART 2 due on Tuesday, November 10 by 11:59PM. Submissions accepted on Brightspace under 'Assignments'
Week 10: Tuesday, November 17	Victimization	- Christie, N. (1986). The ideal victim. In E.A. (Ed). From crime policy to victim policy: Reorienting the justice system (pp. 17-30). London: MacMillan Press. - Kevin F. Hogan, Victoria Clarke & Tony Ward (2022): The Impact of Masculine Ideologies on Heterosexual Men's Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence: A Qualitative Exploration, <i>Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma</i>, DOI: 10.1080/10926771.2022.2061881 - Discussion #2 opens today and closes Monday, November 30 at 11:59PM
Week 11: Tuesday, November 24	Sexual victimization	- Javaid, Aliraza. "The Unknown Victims: Hegemonic Masculinity, Masculinities, and Male Sexual Victimization." <i>Sociological research online</i> 22.1 (2017): 28–47. - Depraetere, J., Vandeviver, C., Beken, T. V., & Keygnaert, I. (2020). Big boys don't cry: A critical interpretive synthesis of male sexual victimization. <i>Trauma, Violence, & Abuse</i>, 21(5), 991-1010. - Discussion #2 closes Monday, November 30 at 11:59PM.

Week 12: Tuesday, December 1	Masculinity, identity, and desistance from crime	• Carlsson, C. (2013). Masculinities, persistence and desistance. <i>Criminology</i>, 51(3) 661-693.
Week 13: Tuesday, December 8	No lecture this week. Students are encouraged to use this time to prepare for the final exam; the course instructor and teaching assistant will be available for one-on-one meetings during this week.	The final exam (35%) will take place in-person, on campus, during the final exam period (December 12-23). The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions covering the entirety of the course content and written-answer questions covering course work since the mid-term test.