

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**SOCI 4410D
FALL 2022**

**Advanced Topics in Criminology
Social Construction of Crime -
Murder and the Media in Early 20th Century Canada**

Instructor: Katharine Kelly
Office Hours: By Appointment
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Course Schedule: Class Meets on Zoom @ 8:30 am on Tuesdays
Method of Delivery: Online - Synchronous

Course Description:

This course asks students to work within a particular theoretical framework (social constructionism) and to use that framework to consider how homicides are constructed in media coverage of intimate homicides/femicides in the Canadian print media (newspapers) for the period 1900 to 1919. Students will work with original documents and move through the process of (a) operationalising a research question, (b) data collection, (c) analysing data - developing basic skills in coding qualitative data, (d) writing a research paper, and (e) presenting research findings.

Students will:

1. Develop an understanding of social constructionism as a theoretical approach.
2. Develop an understanding of the role of media in constructing understandings of crime.
3. Develop a familiarity with doing qualitative historical research.
4. Develop research and presentation skills.

Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses: Fourth year standing; Precludes additional credit for SOCI4410 Section "D" if taken in Winter 2020, SOCI4410 Section "D" taken in Winter 2021 and SOCI4410 Section "D" taken in Fall 2022.

Reading (s)/Textbook (s):

Required Readings:

- Baranauskas & Drakulich (2018) – "Media Construction of Crime Revisited: Media Types, Consumer Contexts, and Frames of Crime and Justice".
- Bowen, Glenn A. (2009). "Document analysis as a qualitative research method."
- Bullock (2007) – "Framing Domestic Violence Fatalities: Coverage by Utah Newspapers".
- D'Cruze et al. (2006) - *Murder: Social and historical approaches to understanding murder and murderers*. Introduction; Chapter 1 - pages 1 to 7 and 17 to 21; Chapter 2 - pp. 22 - 38.
- Drisko & Maschi (2015). "Qualitative Content Analysis".
- Gergen (2015) – *An Invitation to Social Constructionism* (ch. 1 & 2).

- Knepper (2017) – “Historical Approaches to the study of Crime, Media, & Popular Culture”.
- Hogg, Robert (2011). “Performing manliness: “unmanly” men on British frontiers in the mid-nineteenth century”.
- Mahadeen (2017) – “‘The martyr of dawn’: Femicide in Jordanian media”.
- Rafter, N. H. (1990). The Social Construction of Crime and Crime Control.
- Saldana, J. (2016). Chapter 1 in *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers*.
- Sela-Shayovitch (2018) – “The role of the media in reconstructing intimate femicide”.
- Stillman (2007) – “‘The Missing White Girl Syndrome’: Disappeared Women and Media Activism”.
- Welter, Barbara. “The Cult of True Womanhood: 1820-1860”.
- Wiener, Martin J. (2004). Chapter 5 “Bad Wives: Drunkenness and Other Provocations” and Chapter 6 “Bad Wives II: Adultery and the Unwritten Law” in *Men of blood: violence, manliness and criminal justice in Victorian England*.

Supplemental Readings:

- Best (2013) – “Constructionist Social Problems Theory”.
- Ferrell (2013) – “Cultural Criminology”.
- Gekoski et al (2012) - “What makes homicides newsworthy?”.
- Gilchrist (2010) – “Newsworthy victims?”.
- Mathews, Shanaaz, Rachel Jewkes and Naeemah Abrahams (2015). “‘So Now I’m the Man’: Intimate Partner Femicide and Its Interconnections with Expressions of Masculinities in South Africa” .
- Sanders & Cuneo (2010) “Intercoder Relations”.
- Seawright & Gerring (2008) “Case Study Selection”.
- Shoemaker (2009) – “Print Culture and the Creation of Public Knowledge about Crime in 18th-Century London”.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due	Value
Social Constructionism Paper	Week #3 – Sept. 27 th	10%
Term Test	Week #8 – Nov. 8 th	20%
Outline of Final Paper	Week #10 – Nov. 22 nd	10%
Roundtable Presentations	Week #11, #12 – Nov 29 th or Dec. 6 th	15%
Final Paper – due last class	Week #12 – Dec. 6 th	25%
Seminar Participation & Attendance	Ongoing	10%
Prep Work – due midnight the day before class		10%
Theory Summary Table	• Week #2 – Sept. 20 th	2%
Guardian Article Summary Table	• Week #4 – Oct. 4 th	2%
Article selection for final paper	• Week #5 – Oct. 11 th	2%
Deductive Coding	• Week #6 – Oct. 18 th	2%
Inductive Coding	• Week #7 – Nov. 1 st	2%