In the United States, and elsewhere, women are the fastest growing prison population, and prison has become one of the fastest growing economic sectors. What is to be made of that conjuncture?

This course examines the situations and conditions of incarcerated women, female prison staff, female community – family – affiliation networks associated with inmates, in the contexts of regional, national, and global juridical, political, economic, intellectual and cultural practices. We will consider at each turn the category, and persons, of women and of Woman as they relate, or not, to articulations of national sovereignty and well being, of neoliberal and alternative programmes, of racial/ethnic dignity and identity, of poverty and wealth, of immiseration and enrichment. We will also study the intersections, or convergences, of prison, imprisonment, and confinement with gender as a means of getting at the global, the national, the theoretical, the political. We will consider freedom, power, autonomy, agency, patriarchy, fun, and more.

This year, the focus, such as it is, will be conjunctural analysis. That is, we will try to take the intersectional, positional and standpoint epistemological foundations of Women’s Studies and pass it through a filter of Gramscian analysis … all this without ever reading Gramsci … or Foucault! Partly this means we will try to both map the current phase or period at the same time that we try to locate, and perhaps re-locate ourselves. Here are some questions that might assist in this:

1. At the global level, the past half-century has been marked by globalization, neoliberalism, HIV/AIDS pandemics, the growth of the prison-and-security political economies (some call this the prison industrial military complex). How do we understand this convergence?
2. Where is The George Washington University in the global prison industrial military complex?
3. Where are you in the global prison industrial military complex?
4. What does “the global” mean, exactly? Specifically, what does “the global” mean for women? What does “the global” mean for feminism?

As a result of successfully completing this course, students will be able to participate in scholarly critiques and debates concerning the global and globalization, the national and the nation. You will be able to engage in feminist inquiries and conversations, scholarly and activist, concerning imprisonment, in its many forms. You will be able to conduct inter- and cross-disciplinary feminist analysis and critique.

SCHEDULE

Jan  16: Reproductive health/women’s health
    Rachel Roth
“Do prisoners have abortion rights?”
“Searching for the State: Who Governs Prisoners’ Reproductive Rights?”
“‘No New Babies?’ Gender Inequality and Reproductive Control in the Criminal Justice and Prisons System”
Robin Levi
“Prisons as a tool of reproductive oppression”
“Creating the ‘Bad Mother’: How the US approach to pregnancy in prisons violates the right to be a mother”
Priscilla A. Ocen: “Punishing pregnancy: race, incarceration and the shackling of pregnant prisoners”
Brenda J van den Bergh, Alex Gatherer, Lars F Møller: “Women’s health in prison: urgent need for improvement in gender equity and social justice”

Jan 23: Biopolitical economies
Kimberlé W. Crenshaw: “From private violence to mass incarceration: Thinking intersectionally about women, race and social control”
Grace Kyungwon Hong: “Existentially Surplus: Women of Color Feminism and the New Crises of Capitalism”
Pooja Gehi: Gendered (In)security: Migration and Criminalization in the Security State”
Saskia Sassen: “Women’s burden: counter-geographies of globalization and the feminization of survival”
Maggy Lee: “Policing Chinese Migrant Sex Workers in Hong Kong”
World Prison Population List
World Female Imprisonment List

Jan 30: AIDS
Erin Dej and Jennifer M. Kilty: "Criminalization Creep": A Brief Discussion of the Criminalization of HIV/AIDS Nondisclosure in Canada
Human Rights Watch: In Harm’s Way: State Response to Sex Workers, Drug Users and HIV in New Orleans
Aziza Ahmed
“We have the right not to be ‘rescued’...”: When Anti-Trafficking Programmes Undermine the Health and Well-Being of Sex Workers”
“HIV and Women: Incongruent Policies, Criminal Consequences”
“Criminalising consensual sexual behaviour in the context of HIV: Consequences, evidence, and leadership “
“Sex and HIV disclosure”
“The Value of Critique and Distributive Analysis to Addressing the Needs of Sex Workers in the Context of HIV: A Response to Libby Adler’s “Gay Rights and Lefts”
“Feminism, power, and sex work in the context of HIV/AIDS: consequences for women’s health”
“Alternatives to Criminalization of HIV Transmission and Exposure”
“Answering the Millennium Call for Maternal Health”

Feb 6: **Race-sex-gender/racism-sexism-misogyny**
Mariame Kaba: *Laura Scott, Negress: San Quentin Prisoner #23187*
Stephen Dillon: “Possessed by Death: The Neoliberal-Carceral State, Black Feminism, and the Afterlife of Slavery”
Anke Allspach: “Landscapes of (neo-)liberal control: the transcarceral spaces of federally sentenced women in Canada”

Feb 13: **Accumulation**
Silvia Federici: *Caliban and the Witch*. Autonomedia. 1570270597

Feb 20: **Precariousness, precarity, asylum**
Gauri van Gulik: *Fast-Tracked Unfairness: Detention and Denial of Women Asylum Seekers in the UK*
Jon Burnett, Eden Fessahaye, Anna Stopes: *Detained and Denied: The clinical care of immigration detainees living with HIV*
Shiar Youssef: *Immigration Prisons: brutal, unlawful & profitable*
Phillipe Sands, Juliet Stevenson, Lydia Besong: *Detained: Women Asylum Seekers Locked Up in the UK*

Feb 27: **Globalization 1: Selling ’the dream’**
Loïc Wacquant. *Prisons of Poverty* U of Minnesota P

Mar 6: **Globalization 2: Surplus value**

Mar 13: **NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK**

Mar 20: **Globalization 3: Surplus population**

Mar 27: **Globalization 4: Supermax**
Jeffrey Ian Ross (ed): *The globalization of supermax prison* Rutgers UP

Apr 3: **Authority**
Bessie Head. *Collector of Treasures*. Heinemann. 0435901826
Jacques Derrida: “Force of Law: The Mystical Foundation of Authority”

Apr 10: **Older women prisoners** – Sally Shumaker lecture
Apr 17: **Empire**

Edwidge Danticat. *Brother, I'm Dying*. Vintage 1400034302

Wendy Young, Mary Diaz, Diana Quick: *Behind Locked Doors: Abuse of Refugee Women at the Krome Detention Center*

Jana K. Lipman: “‘The Fish Trusts the Water, and It Is in the Water That It Is Cooked’: The Caribbean Origins of the Krome Detention Center”

April 24: **Resistance**


**Evaluation:**

The evaluation of the class will be based upon (1) student’s class and public participation (60%), including individual participation in class discussions, individual participation in group presentations, posting of reflections to the class, ongoing meditative reflections, and public postings; and (2) an extended meditative and exploratory, final project (40%). You will also write a 750 – 1000 word version of this essay, for posting at Women In and Beyond. We will discuss this further as the semester progresses.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states:: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see: [http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html](http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html)

**SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**

**DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)**

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: [http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/](http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/)

**UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC)** 202-994-5300
The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:
- crisis and emergency mental health consultations
- confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals

http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices

SECURITY
In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.