University Studies
Cluster Proposal Cover Sheet

Cluster: **WOMENS STUDIES**
Title of course: **WOMEN, CRIME & JUSTICE**
Course Number: **AJ 399**
Proposing Faculty: **Annette Jolin**
Cluster Coordinator: **Johanna Brenner**

☐ Cluster Course to New Cluster
☐ New Course to Cluster
☐ Removal

Other clusters this course is assigned to:


1. The Course
   A. Course Title, Number and Catalog Description:
      Women, Crime and Justice (AJ 399): Until a few decades ago the study of crime and
criminal justice focused almost exclusively on men. Men committed crimes, men studied
men who committed crimes, and men arrested, tried, and punished men who committed
crimes. Today, a sizable body of literature provides information on a wide range of topics
pertaining to women as victims of crime, as perpetrators of crime, and as professionals who
work in the criminal justice system. The course is designed to examine how historical,
cultural, economic, political, and social conditions shape our understanding of women,
crime, and justice in the U.S. Beyond the theoretical, the course will address past and
present criminal justice policies and their impact on women.

   B. Development
      The course is partly based on a special topics course entitled “Women and Crime” that has
been offered in the past.

   C. Availability
      The course will be offered at least once in the course of a 3-term academic year.

   D. Prerequisites
      This course is offered at the 300-level and does not require prerequisites.

2. Course Outline
   A. Course Outline
      Since it cannot be assumed that students are knowledgeable in criminology or criminal
justice the course will begin with an introduction to crime and criminal justice in America.
Issues surrounding the creation of criminal laws, a brief history of the criminal justice
system, definitions of relevant concepts, and explanations of the methods used to study
crime and criminal justice policy will be part of this introduction. From there the course will
proceed to focus on women in the context of crime and criminal justice. First, students will
examine how, over time, law has shaped women’s position in society in general and in the
world of crime and justice in particular. The first of the three subsections focuses on women
offenders. Questions pertaining the rates of female offending as well as to the why of
female offending will be at the core of this discussion. Women as victims of crime, is the
second subsection with a special focus on rape victimization, intimate partner victimization,
and sexual harassment. In addition, students will be asked to explore the close empirical
relationship between victimization and offending using prostitution as an example. The
third and last subsection of the course takes a look at women as professionals in the criminal
justice system. Here, as in the other two sections, students will become acquainted with the
historical and cultural contexts that shaped women’s roles in law enforcement, the courts,
and corrections.
B. Preliminary Reading List

The readings for the course will consist of selections from the list of books below and journal articles.


C. Instructors

Dr. Annette Jolin, professor and full-time faculty member in the Administration of Justice Division at Portland State University, will teach the course.

3. General Education Goals

A. Course Content and Suitability for Cluster

This course by title and content, as delineated above, fits nicely into the Women's Studies Cluster and its stated aim to “uncover women’s experience past and present.”
B. University Studies Goals

➢ *Inquiry and Critical Thinking*. Much of the course is devoted to a critical analysis of the way in which the criminal and civil law shaped women's role in society. In looking at the role of law in shaping women's reality in general and women's justice related reality in particular, one must also examine its historical, cultural, and political origins.

➢ *Diversity of Human Experience*. It can and will be argued that the implementation of our criminal law through its enforcement agents has had a disproportionately negative impact on minority women in America. This fundamental characteristic of the criminal justice system will permeate each of the subsections of the course.

➢ *Ethical Issues and Social Responsibility*. The American criminal justice system, while theoretically grounded in equity and justice, produces ethical dilemmas that not infrequently lead to ethical violations in its implementation. For example, lack of access to quality legal representation, biased law enforcement, and lengthy imprisonment affect some groups in society more than others. Thus, women of color, women with little formal education and few other resources are disproportionately represented among those incarcerated in our prisons. A significant portion of the course will address matters of social responsibility related to these findings.
PROPOSING FACULTY: ANNETTE JOLIN, Ph.D.
CHAIR AND PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER: WOMEN, CRIME AND JUSTICE AJ 399

-----------------------------------------------

OBTAIN CHAIR AND CLUSTER COORDINATOR SIGNATURES BEFORE SUBMITTING TO UNIVERSITY STUDIES OFFICE

DEPARTMENT CHAIR: ___________________________ DATE: 4/08/02

CLUSTER COORDINATOR: _________________________ DATE: 11/12/02

THE ORIGINAL + 12 COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MUST BE RECEIVED AT UNIVERSITY STUDIES (CH 163) BY OCTOBER 31, 2002

-----------------------------------------------

COURSE APPROVED FOR CLUSTER INCLUSION

CHAIR, CLUSTER COORDINATORS: ___________________________ DATE: __________________

CHAIR, UNST COMMITTEE: ___________________________ DATE: __________________