This course joins an anthropological approach to the study of gender with the analysis of forms of intervention developed to ameliorate and change a range of gendered violations of women. The main topics of concern are domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. The course combines social science research with questions about policymaking as it examines the construction of masculinity and femininity along with the race/class dimensions of this process. Major modes of intervention considered in the course are those of law, policing, and punishment as well as therapy, religion, and education, such as the development of curricular materials to combat sexual harassment in K-12 schools. The course examines how research informs policy and how policy initiatives toward wife battering and sexual harassment have changed over time. The focus is both national and international, exploring variability across race, class and community. Finally, the course examines the global dimensions of this movement, exploring the extent of gendered violations worldwide and human rights efforts to change them.

There will be two short essays (graded), one non-graded reaction paper (after the field trip), one in-class group presentation, and a final research paper (which can be an extension of the group presentation). Students are expected to do the reading, attend all classes, attend the field trip, and participate in class discussions. There will be an all-day field trip on March 9 and students are expected to take part in it unless they have unavoidable conflicts. The short essays are each worth 25% of the grade, the final paper 35%, and class participation and presentation 15%.

There are five required texts. Four are in the bookstore and one is available online. The rest of the readings are available on the course conference and can be downloaded and printed.

**Required Books:**


Spindel. 2000. *With an End in Sight.* UNIFEM. (available on e reserve)
Feb 2. The Creation of Gender Violence as a Social Problem and a Human Rights Violation

- Overview of the evolution of feminist theory and ideas of gender as performance
- Introduction to the definitions and theories of gender violence.
- Introduction to the history of gender violence as a ‘public’ problem/concern domestically and on an international scale – includes discussion of sexual harassment.

Feb. 9: The Global Scope of Gender Violence


Recommended:


Feb 16: Intersectionality: Variations in Gender Violence by Race, Class, Nation, Sexualities, Colonial Histories


Recommended:


**Feb 23: The History of the Movement**

- Origins of the violence against women movement.
- Evolution of the movement and corresponding changes in definitions and strategies.

**Readings:**


**FILM:** *Tough Guise: Violence, Media and the Crisis in Masculinity* – by Jackson Katz.

**First paper:** Compare three examples of gendered violence. How do the specific features of the situation and the larger context within which it takes place affect the nature and meaning of that violence? 5-6 pp. **Due March 9.**

**March 2: Modes of Intervention: Shelters, Support Groups, and Criminalization**

- Intersection of gender violence and criminal justice system
- No-drop policies, mandatory arrest, restraining orders, batterer’s treatment programs, and the politics of criminalization.
- Global policies and local variation in the transplanting of laws and policing practices

**Readings:**

• Wittner, J. Reconceptualizing Agency in Domestic Violence Court, in Naples, N (Ed) Community Activism and Feminism Politics. Pp.81-103. (there are two versions on e-reserve. Make sure you use the one that is readable- top of the list. The other one is not).


Recommended:


March 9: Field Trip (TURN IN 2 COPIES OF YOUR 1ST PAPER AS YOU BOARD THE BUS AT 8:30 a.m.)

We will explore various modes of intervention including courts, shelters, and community feminist programs working on sexual and domestic violence against women.

ASSIGNMENT: A three page reaction paper (non-graded), drawing on your feelings, perceptions and musings from the day’s field trip will be required within one week.
Reading for the Field Trip:


  Recommended: Chapters 6-9.

March 16: (Reaction paper on the field trip due today (non-graded), 3 pages max.)

Theories about Gender Violence

- Cultural and structural theories of violence against women
- The nature of marriage and divorce, relative status of women, definitions of gender, ease of exit, consequences for violators
- Connections between gender violence and state action at times of peace and civil unrest or international conflict
- Response of women to gender violence in the absence of civic society or culturally relevant systems
- The inter-connection of international, state, and local politics in issues of gender violence.

Readings:


**Second paper:** What are the advantages and drawbacks of criminal justice interventions for domestic violence and sexual assault? 5-6 pp. *Due April 6.*

**March 30:** Gender Violence as an International Human Rights Issue

- Emergence of gender violence as an international human rights issue.
- How is violence against women defined internationally?
- What are the strategies adopted in the international arena and in various country settings?

**Readings:**

- Spindel, *With an End in Sight.* UNIFEM (available on the web in a PDF file to download. See address under e reserve)
Recommended:


Lecture related to course:

April 4: Donna Stanton Lecture by Professor Catherine Powell, “Women’s Human Rights in Post 9/11: Lifting the Veil of Ignorance.” Time: 4:30 (Collins)
There will be a reception following the talk in Collins.

April 6: Sexual Harassment in Schools – A form of gendered school violence

Readings:

- Katz, Jackson (1999, Feb 5). The National Conversation in the Wake of Littleton is Missing the Mark. Boston Sunday Globe,

**Recommended readings:**


**April 13: Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Assault in Elementary and Secondary Schools: What Counts as Sexual Violence? And How do We Count it?**


**Recommended Readings:**


**April 20:** Lesbian Battering


**In –class group presentations begin**

**April 27:** Gender Violence and Human Rights Issues: Female Genital Cutting and Honor Killing


In-class group presentations continue

May 4: Ruhlman Conference, No Class

May 11: Final in-class group presentations