WS 203-3: Female Roles in Contemporary Society: Auto/Biography of Imprisoned Women

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Course Description.
The voice of the human subject is commonly missing in the study of social science. In this course, we will study the stories of women imprisoned for theft, drug violent and political crimes. With attention to context, we will consider gender relations, racialization, criminalization and practices of punishment from the perspective of the punished. Lecture and discussion topics, enhanced by videos and guest lecturers, will include:

* prisoner autobiography as a genre
* the feminine in confinement
* the effect of “point of view” on analyses of prison
* intersections of age, race, class and gender in crime and punishment
* the gender factor when the crime is shocking
* colonization and rage
* women behind bars, sharing their stories

Assignments
20% - Participation. Contribute to small group discussion; do outside research and lead discussion; give presentation; and, submit two-page summary of the work. All combined, 20 percent of final mark.

40% each - Essay Assignments. Two research essays with assigned topics, maximum 12 pp. each plus references. Essays evaluated on level of scholarly research; documentation; composition; and, level of analysis.

Required Readings


Faith, Karlene with Anne Near (2004). 13 Women: Parables from Prison. (Manuscript, to be distributed by instructor at cost.)

PREREQUISITES: WS 101 or WS 102. (This condition is waived for seniors’ registration)

The Department of Women’s Studies encourages clarity of thought and expression and good writing. Students will be evaluated on these skills in all courses given by the Department.