Course Introduction:
This course will take a serious look at a wide variety of forms of violence against women. Topics include domestic violence, prostitution, gang rape, economic violence, military violence, cultural violence, ecological violence, and incest. We will examine a variety of disciplinary approaches to the study of violence against women including psychology, anthropology, and sociology and we will focus on a variety of responses and resistance to violence including public policy, criminal justice, counseling, and faith communities. Particular attention will be paid to religious justifications for violence against women; and the role that faith communities have played in both condoning and resisting violence. An important aspect of the course will be exploring women’s resistance to violence and public policy measures intended to address violence against women. From the attached course outline you will be able to see the variety of approaches and topics that we will be covering in the course.

One of the primary intellectual challenges of this course is for students to develop an understanding that violence is often culturally constructed, condoned, and sometimes even supported. A good portion of our efforts in the class will be placed on untangling the ways in which race, class, and gender work together to perpetrate violence against women around the world. Because U.S. students will often readily admit that these processes work in concert in the two-thirds world, but here in the U.S. women are equal with men, some attention is paid in the course to addressing domestic violence, prostitution, and fraternity gang rape in the U.S. context. The idea is for students to understand the structural dimensions of violence and to be able to see the ways in which the construction of gender and violence are present in the U.S. as well as in the “developing” world.

Objectives:
* to develop an understanding of how experiences of gender and violence have been socially constructed in society

* to develop a structural understanding of the problem of violence in contemporary society

* to examine ways in which Christian theology and ritual serve to both justify violence and to liberate women from violence

* to examine potential public policy responses to violence against women
COURSE MATERIALS:  

available at bookstore:  


Coursepack by Xanedu.

available online at www.bookfinder.com  

available on reserve at the library:  

COURSE BUSINESS  

Contact with Professor:  
I enjoy meeting you during my office hours and even at other times. Feel free to talk about the course, questions you have, issues/points you do not quite understand, and anything else that is important to you. I am also very responsive to email and will make every effort to respond to your messages within 24 hours.

Blackboard:  
It is your responsibility to check the Blackboard site on a regular basis. I will use it extensively as a way of communicating with you about assignments and other course material.

Writing:  
Good writing skills are a critical aspect of a college education. Clarity of thought, good organization and presentation of ideas, original thinking, and creativity are required to receive an “A” on your formal essay assignments. I am also happy to read drafts of papers as long as I see them at least 24 hours before they are due. I am also happy to discuss your writing problems.
with you on an individual basis. You may also want to consider visiting the Writing Center to work on any of these areas.

*Writing Center Hours*
3:30-5:30 PM Monday – Thursday
7-11 PM Sunday – Thursday
ASSIGNMENTS

Class facilitation
As a seminar, each student will be expected to “lead” class one day during the semester. This will entail presenting an overview of the major points from the reading and being prepared to lead off the class period with thoughtful questions. Students will be graded on the content as well as the delivery of their summary and on the depth and insightfulness of their questions.

Writing Assignments
Response papers:
You are required to write one and half to two pages responding to the day’s reading. This is to be a critical assessment of the reading in which you engage the ideas expressed by the author(s) of a particular assignment. You must do more than just agree or disagree with them, you must express why you do so. These response papers make up a large part of our class discussion as well as your grade. These must be typed, double-spaced, and turned in by the end of class each day (hand written response papers will not be accepted). Response papers will not be accepted on the days a student is absent. You will get a score of credit or no credit. You will receive credit for these papers if you demonstrate that you have read the material and critically engaged it on some level. Work that seems too quick or careless will receive no credit.

Case briefs (4-5 pages)
You will each be required to choose one particular type of violence against women (rape, domestic violence, economic or cultural violence, incest, prostitution, etc.). You will then be required to write a series of papers that analyze and discuss the problem and resistance to it.
1st – Narrative overview that provides the facts of the case/problem.
2nd – Analysis of the ways in which gender and violence are socially constructed.
3rd – Structural analysis of the situation of violence.
4th – Public policy suggestions for addressing the violence.

Final paper:
Students will be expected to synthesize their case briefs into a coherent final paper on the topic of “Violence, Women, and Resistance.” While they may draw on their case briefs, the final product will be expected to show both response to my written feedback on the case briefs and new material or insights not in the original papers. In other words, students cannot just string the four case briefs together and expect to have completed the assignment in a satisfactory way.

Major assignment for the class
The project for the class is to work together to figure out what to do with your case briefs and the knowledge that you have gained to try to address the issues raised by the course related to women, violence, and resistance. Your options are limitless and I encourage you to be as
creative as you can to develop a class project that shares what you have learned with the Elon community or the larger world.

**ASSESSMENT**

10% - class facilitation  
40% - daily writing assignments  
20% - case briefs (5% each)  
10% - final paper  
20% - class project (participation, process, essay, and evaluation)

Your daily writing grade will be determined as follows: 27-22 points = A; 21 = A-; 20 = B+; 19-18 = B; 17 = B-; 16 = C+; 15-14 = C; 13 = C-; 12 = D+; 11-10 = D; 9-0 = F.
Schedule of Readings

Weeks 1 & 2 – The Social Construction of Gender and Violence

Feb. 4
The first half of this book focuses on listening to women’s stories as a lens into understanding how violence against women is perpetrated and justified.

Feb. 6

Feb. 11
This chapter both focuses on the relationship between gender, power, and violence and proposes a new paradigm of power as a strategy of resisting violence.


Feb. 13

Week 3 – International Voices and Resistance to Domestic Violence

Feb 18
These chapters provide a systemic analysis of domestic violence and examine the experience and resistance of women in India.

Feb. 20
Weeks 4 & 5 – Examining Incest and the Role of Religion in Justifying Violence

Feb. 25
This book examines the trauma of incest, with particular attention to the ways in which Christian images and themes are used to justify and perpetuate the abuse.

Feb. 27

March 4

March 6


Week 6– Examining Fraternity Gang Rape
March 11
This book is an anthropological study of fraternities and how they create a culture that not only condones rape, but one that encourages it.

March 13

Week 7– Examining Prostitution

March 18
Part I of this book examines the reality of the international sex industry. It addresses prostitution from economic, legal, social, and psychological perspectives.

March 20

Spring Break  March 24 - March 28

Week 8 – Rethinking the Sexual Exploitation of Women

April 1
Part II of this book moves to lay the groundwork for responding to the problem of prostitution. The response begins by redefining the problem as one of the sexual exploitation of women and children. From there the authors think the problem in a new way and work to develop strategies for “change and solidarity.”

April 3


**Week 9 – Economic and Military Violence**

**April 8**
This section of the book examines how poverty and militarism can both become forces of violence in women’s lives.

**April 10**


**Week 10 – Cultural Violence**

**April 15**
This section of the book looks at the ways in which cultural violence is manifested in the lives of women, particularly in the two-thirds world.

**April 17**
Week 11 – Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics

April 22
The second half of this book focuses on making sense of violence within the black community and illustrating how black women have and continue to resist violence in their lives.

April 24

Week 12 – Transformative Social Justice

April 29
These chapters examine the justice system and public policy avenues for working toward social change in the area of violence against women.

May 1


Weeks 13 & 14 – Violence, Redemptive Suffering & the Search for What Saves Us

May 6

May 8

May 13