LYRICS ON LOCKDOWN: YOUNG WOMEN IN THE PRISON SYSTEM
Gallatin School of Individualized Study

CLI-UG 1443
4.0 Credits
Professor Piper Anderson

Spring 2015
Mondays 6:20-8:30pm
Silver Center 100 Washington Sq East Room 402

Office Hours by Appointment on Tuesdays 4-6pm
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OVERVIEW
Rates of detention among girls in the US continue to increase even as overall rates of youth incarceration rates have steadily declined in the last decade. Since young women represent a significantly smaller population within the juvenile justice system overall, fewer resources are allocated to address the underlying causes of incarceration and recidivism amongst young women under 21. This course will investigate the causes and experiences of incarceration amongst girls, women, and people who identify as LGBTQ. In the process, students will design and facilitate a five-week arts & education program for incarcerated girls at a juvenile detention facility on Saturday mornings April-May.

Topics that will be covered include:
  i. What are the unique concerns presented by women, girls, transgender and gender non-conforming populations?
  ii. What must we understand about the policing of gender and sexuality in order to meet the needs of incarcerated girls, women, and LGBTQ people?
  iii. What role does institutional violence play in the experiences of young people remitted to the juvenile justice system?
  iv. What is the role of education in prevention and reducing recidivism amongst young people?
  v. How are the arts currently used in correctional facilities? What is the role of the arts in empowering inmate populations?

Course Objectives/Goals:
• Students will read texts closely to understand the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality in constructing criminalizing notions of social deviance and criminality.
• Students will understand the ways trauma can contribute to incarceration for both cis-gender and transgender women.
• Students will study arts education pedagogy and evaluate the impact of this approach inside a juvenile detention facility.
• Students will collaborate on the design and facilitation of an arts based educational workshop to be offered at Rikers Island Correctional Facility.
• Students will provide written documentation of their experience inside the classroom, in the workshop design process, and at Rikers.

EXPECTATIONS:

**Attendance:** Students are responsible for attending class regularly and being prepared with all assignments and readings as outlined in the syllabus.

*Students are allotted two excused absences. Failure to attend a third class will result in the drop of one letter grade.* In order for an absence to be excused you must contact me via email at least 2-hours prior to the start of the class session. All other absences are unexcused. Each unexcused absence will result in the loss of one half a letter grade.

Students are responsible for making up work missed in class by the following session. *This course requires a substantial amount of work outside of regular class time. Students are required to attend all scheduled Saturday sessions.*

**Grading:**
Grading will be based on in-class participation and the completion of four assignments – two individual and two group. The grading will be determined as follows:

**Attendance and Participation – 20%.** This includes attendance, class participation in small group work and class discussions. Your contributions in discussions should demonstrate that you have read the assigned texts. You are expected to be on time to every class and workshops at Rikers.

**Three Papers – 40%.** Three written assignments:

**Op-Ed on State Violence:** Write an opinion piece a max of 700 words about the role of state violence in the lives of girls/women and LGBTQ communities. State your position on this topic. What must the public understand about this topic? What should public officials do? Are there policy recommendations that should be given greater consideration? Use your attendance at Mother Tongue Monologues as a springboard for your position. Due March 2nd. (10pt)

**Design Process Analysis:** With a critical eye, analyze your workshop design process. In this paper evaluate yourself, your peers, and discuss the pedagogical approach that you and your team used to design your Rikers workshop. Include observations, anecdotes from team meetings, personal reflections, and reference the readings to support your analysis of the process. Explain why your group made the
choices that you made in the design of this workshop and how will you determine whether or not the workshop was successful. **This paper should be 5-6 pages. Due April 6th (10pt)**

**Final Paper:** Building off of your design process, describe what happened in your workshop. What was successful? What was challenging? What would you do differently, if given another opportunity to lead this workshop? Evaluate your participation and that of your team members. Based on the criteria you established, was the workshop successful? How do you know? What evidence of learning did you see in the workshop? Describe these moments in detail. Be sure to use course readings to substantiate your claims. **This paper should be 10-12 pages. Due May 13th (Submit via email) (20pt)**

All written assignments should conform to MLA formatting.

All written assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the designated due-date. The final paper is due via email no later than 11:59pm. Extensions will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances, and only when requested prior to the due date. Late assignments will be penalized with the lost of half a letter grade per day.

**Prison Ed Workshop Planning and Execution – 40%**. Includes preparation design, execution, and debriefing.

**Prison Education Workshops:** Students are expected to work in groups of 3-4 on a lesson plan that they will facilitate with a class of incarcerated students at the Rikers Island Correctional Facility. **The workshop must be no more than 60-minutes.** Students are expected to work collaboratively on the design of the workshop and the workshop facilitation.

**Workshop Structure:**
Building a collaborative learning community with Rikers Island students will be a central focus of the course. NYU Student-Facilitators will be responsible for planning and leading a series of arts-based workshops with a clearly defined educational goal. In these workshops, we will create a space in which incarcerated students can voice their perspectives on a wide range of issues affecting their lives. The class will seek to refine artistic and analytical skills through a series of critical literacy and arts-based activities that explore personal/familial experiences, community trends, and historical events/movements.

Given the high turnover rate of students on the Rikers Island campus, we will structure each workshop session (more or less) as an independent module that is not dependent on attendance in previous classes. Each 60-minute workshop should include the following components:
1. Introduction/Demonstration/Background

2. Arts-based Educational Workshop, led by NYU Student Facilitators

3. Evaluation and large-group wrap-up discussion and/or student showcase during which the Rikers Island students share some of their artistic expressions with the entire class.

REQUIRED SATURDAY WORKSHOPS:
Saturday, February 28th 10-5pm at NYU
All Saturday Workshops at Rikers Island are from 9-11:30am on the following dates
April 4, 18, 25, May 2, 9th

EXTRA CREDIT
Periodically throughout the semester there will be opportunities for extra credit. Students may propose an extra credit opportunity 1-week prior to the event. Upon completion of the extra credit opportunity, students must write a 2-3 page paper to receive 5 extra credit points. **Students may complete no more than 2 extra credit assignments over the course of the semester.** Extra Credit assignments are due within 14 days of attending the event.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Are Prisons Obsolete
Girls Like Us
Teaching to Transgress,
Girl Time,
Queer (In)Justice,
Redefining Realness
Course packet with additional readings.

Recommended Texts:
Hip Hop Wars
Global Lockdown
The Revolution Starts At Home
Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence, and America’s Prison Nation

Course Schedule/Assignments

**Week 1:** Introductions, Goals, and Structure
1/26/14

Readings: “Social Construction of Difference” p. 5-8
“The Complexity of Identity” p. 15-20
Are Prisons Obsolete? p. 1-59
 Week 2: Defining the Prison Industrial Complex  
2/2/14 What is the Prison Industrial Complex?  

**Guest Lecturer:** Marlon Peterson, Fortune Society  
**Readings:** Are Prisons Obsolete? p. 59-118  

 Week 3: Race, Gender, and the Criminal Justice System  
2/9/15  
**Readings:** Queering (In)justice p.xi-158  
"Queering Anti-Prison Work" p. 73-85  

**NO CLASS 2/16/15 – PRESIDENTS DAY**  

**CLASS OUTING TO SEE: MOTHER TONGUE MONOLOGUES FEBRUARY 21ST AT 6:30PM NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE IN HARLEM**  

 Week 4: The Criminalization of LGBTQ People  
2/23/15  
**Reading:** “Latinas and the War on Drugs in the United States, Latina America, and Europe”  
Lloyd, R. Girls Like Us p. 1-99  

 Week 5: The War on Drugs  
3/2/15 **View:** The House I Live In  
Op-Ed on State Violence is due.  

**Readings:** Girls Like Us p. 101-288  

**BEYOND THE BARS CONFERENCE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MARCH 6-7TH**  

 Week 6: Criminalizing Victims: Sexual Exploitation of Women and Girls  
3/9/15 **View Film:** Very Young Girls  

**Readings:** Teaching to Transgress p. 1-207  
“Solving Problems Together: Six Steps that Engage Children’s Creativity and Commitment”  

**SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS 3/16/15**  

 Week 7: Social Justice Education  

Lyrics on Lockdown: Young Women in the Prison System
Readings:  *Girl Time* p. xiii-105
“Group Leadership: Strategies for Group Counseling Leaders”

**Week 8:**  *Arts In Carceral Settings*
3/30/15  Workshop Demonstrations & Critical Response Feedback Process

Readings:  *Girl Time* p. 105-160
“Lyrics On Lockdown”
“Towards an Empowerment Approach”

**Week 9:**  *Personal Narratives of Healing and Justice*
4/6/15  Design Process Analysis Due

Readings:  *Redefining Realness* p. xiii-128
“The Only Freedom I Can See”

**Week 10:**  *Personal Narratives of Healing and Justice*
4/13/15  Guest Lecturer: Victoria Sammartino, Voices Unbroken

Readings:  *Redefining Realness* p.129-258
“Making Our Stories Matter”

**Week 11:**  *Creative Interventions*
4/20/15

Readings:  “What Does It Feel Like When Change Finally Comes?”
“How We Won the Mainstream but Lost the Movement”

**Week 12:**  *Movement Building for Transformative Justice*
4/27/15

Readings:  The Young Women’s Empowerment Project: Bad Line Encounter (BEL) Research Project
Schiraldi & Ziedenberg “How Distorted Coverage of Juvenile Crime Affects Public Policy”
“Justice 4 Youth”

**Week 13:**  *Activism, Advocacy, and Public Policy*
5/4/15

**Week 14:**  *Final Reflections/Community Potluck*
5/11/15

**Academic Integrity Statement:**
As a Gallatin student you belong to an interdisciplinary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School include plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework, and cheating.

Please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website for a full description of the academic integrity policy:

[www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html](http://www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html)