

2015CCJ: Gender, Crime and Justice
Research Essay: Guidelines
Due Date: 26th September 2022 at 5 pm
Word Length: 3000
Weighting: 40% (marked out of 40)

The essay is worth 40% of your total grade. As such, you must follow the instructions below and attend tutorials to ensure that you receive a good mark. Allow at least three weeks for writing your essay. Plan to finish writing it several days before the due date to allow time for checking and revision. To complete the essay, you need to follow the steps listed below:

Choose ONE of the following research questions. You need to ensure that your work has focus, an argument and an analytical discussion. You should present a clear, thoughtful, reflective, and well-presented piece of work. All essays should be carefully formatted and referenced using APA7 with a complete reference list.

Question 1 – Violence against Women

Starting in the 1970s feminist activists and scholars brought domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking to the forefront of public consciousness. Once invisible, these offences, broadly categorised under the banner of ‘violence against women,’ are now widely viewed by criminologists and policymakers as one of the most pressing social problems in Australia and internationally.

Write an essay that addresses the following questions:

- 1) In your estimation, what have been the significant contributions made by feminist research and theorising to current knowledge on the causes and possible solutions to the problem of violence against women?
- 2) Select one example of violence against women (e.g. sexual assault, domestic violence or stalking) to focus on more in-depth in the rest of this essay. Use this example to address the following two sub-questions in the essay:
 - a. Construct a feminist analysis of the example you have chosen (sexual assault, domestic violence or stalking). Draw from existing literature and research to analyse the causes, social contexts, and other factors you see relevant in terms of how we can understand this type of violence from a feminist perspective/s.
 - b. Using your example (sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking), provide two concrete illustrations of how feminism has impacted changes to Australian law, criminal justice policy, or practice. You can choose these from federal, state or local levels.

Question 2 – Pathways Feminism and the Bangkok Rules

Pathways feminism has impacted not only the development of criminological theory but also the advancement of gender-specific policy and practice to better meet the needs of women in the criminal (in)justice system. In 2010, the United Nations adopted special guidelines for the treatment of women prisoners and ‘offenders’, the *United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders* (the Bangkok Rules). The Bangkok Rules provide a practical and aspirational set of human rights principles via a set of gendered directives to policymakers, legislators, sentencing authorities, and correctional institutions

Write an essay that addresses the following questions:

- 1) What is pathways feminism and how has it impacted criminological understandings of the gendered nature of criminalisation? Summarise the feminist pathways approach and findings from this body of research.
- 2) What are the Bangkok Rules? Provide sufficient background information regarding their development and purpose.
- 3) Identify one example of how pathways feminism may have impacted the development of the Bangkok Rules. To answer this, you will need to identify a key theme within the Bangkok Rules and demonstrate how this developed from a feminist pathways understanding of criminalisation.
- 4) Keeping your example/key theme in mind, from a feminist pathways approach, provide two examples as to how the Bangkok Rules might impact policy and practice to better meet the needs of criminalised women?

Question 3 – Intersectional Feminism and the Imprisonment of Indigenous women in Australia

Current worldwide prison population statistics show that the female prison population is increasing at a faster rate than the male prison population. Despite this, when we examine the imprisonment rate of women and men, in most other countries the male imprisonment rate is significantly larger than the female imprisonment rate. However, this is not the case for Indigenous women in Australia. The imprisonment rate recorded in June 2021 for Indigenous women was 433.9 per 100,000. In contrast, for non-Indigenous men, the recorded imprisonment rate was 308.8 per 100,000.

Using a feminist intersectional approach, write an essay that seeks to explain the high rate of incarceration for Indigenous women in Australia. In your essay, you should consider the following:

- 1) What is intersectional feminism
- 2) What are the general trends in imprisonment rates for women and men since the mid-2000s in Australia?
- 3) Utilising intersectional feminism, explain why Indigenous women are incarcerated at such high rates?
- 4) What are the implications of these imprisonment trends at the intersection of gender and Indigeneity in terms of criminal justice policies, and other social policies related to addressing Australia’s growing prison population and the high rate of incarcerated Indigenous women specifically?

Format and Guidelines:

Please refer to the APA Manual, 7th edition, available from Griffith University for style and referencing guidelines here:

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/library/study/referencing/apa-7>.

There is also a video tutorial provided so please watch it.

Assessment Criteria: You will be assessed on four criteria for the essay. These are:

- 1) Structure and Argument
- 2) Content
- 3) Referencing
- 4) Presentation

Please look at the attached marking sheet to familiarise yourself with how you will be assessed, and what we will be looking for in your essays. Please note that there is an expected minimum of **ten scholarly works** that should be used and referenced in your essay. This means that you are expected to conduct outside research, i.e. scholarly works outside of the materials presented in the class. Also, “scholarly works” mean peer-review journal articles, academic books, and governmental publications. If you are unsure, ask your course convenor or tutor.

Suggestions for Writing the Essay

- 1) Develop your ESSAY PLAN – Take notes from your resources, make your interpretations, and jot down references (i.e. the author, date, publication title, publication place, publisher and page numbers).
- 2) Draft AN OUTLINE of the essay, with topic sentences for each paragraph.
- 3) Write a SUMMARY STATEMENT (introduction) at the beginning of your essay which presents your thesis statement, as well as an overview of the essay itself.
 - a. Also, think of your first paragraph as especially important in gaining the interest of your reader. Like a song, if the first 20 seconds are bad, the listener is likely to turn the song off – and the same goes for writing as well.
- 4) Write the body of the essay, using the outline as a guide
- 5) Write your CONCLUDING STATEMENT (conclusion) that brings together all the main points you have made and makes clear to the reader what your argument is.
- 6) REVISE the essay – You may need to do this several times, so make sure you leave enough time. Look at the MARKING GUIDE and see if you have covered all the things we will be looking for in your essay!
- 7) Write a FINAL DRAFT of the essay. Make sure that it is checked for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation and that the reference list uses a consistent and recognised citation format.

CCJ 2015 Gender, Crime and Justice – Essay Criteria Sheet

	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	POOR	UNSATISFACTORY
Structure & Argument marked out of 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction synthesises relevant literature, summarises the problem and the argument • Essay directly addresses the question • Breaks question into parts and responds to each • Follows a set plan • Mounts a coherent and logical argument • Does not just rely on description • Integrates information from various sources • Supports argument with references/evidence • Conclusion summarises issues & argument 	Meets all criteria to a consistently high standard. Strong argument & structure. Excellent use of sources. Focuses precisely on the question asked and deals with all aspects of t.	Meets most criteria well. Good argument & use of sources but may need stronger links and integration between sections.	Good effort on most criteria. Good attempt at argument but may lack cohesion. May be too much reliance on quotations, rather than conveying points in the student's own words. May omit/ not deal well with part of question. May be generalisations.	Makes attempt, but likely to be confusing, contain repetitions, lack an obvious plan, have strings of quotes not properly integrated into the argument. Likely to omit parts of the question. May have some irrelevant material/ generalisations.	Fails to mount any reasonable argument. Lacking in structure and cohesion. No reference to sources, or unintegrated references. Contains much irrelevant material, relies heavily on generalisations.
Content marked out of 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains/defines all relevant key terms, theoretical concepts • Provides concise overview of the topic • Refers to sufficient range of key references and sources (at least 10 journal articles or academic book chapters or books) to show understanding of topic • Draws explicit links with key literature • Uses relevant examples 	Meets all criteria to a consistently high standard. Shows excellent understanding of all aspects of the topic, key concepts and theory.	Meets most criteria well. Canvasses main points and demonstrates good understanding of key concepts and theory.	Good effort on most criteria. May omit or not demonstrate knowledge of some relevant issues or theory. Content may not be balanced.	Makes attempt but may be omissions or errors. Definitions may be confused. Lack of reference to relevant theory. May be insufficient use of key sources.	Fails to demonstrate familiarity with topic, theory and key concepts. No understanding shown of background info or key sources. No or inadequate research shown.

Referencing marked out of 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides in-text referencing for all arguments, assertions & evidence • Appropriately paraphrases source material • Provides a complete list of references • Uses correct APA7 style 	Meets all criteria well. Consistent in-text referencing. Good paraphrasing. Complete, properly set out list of refs. Uses APA style.	Meets most criteria well. Generally good referencing & good list of refs. May be some minor errors. Uses APA style.	Good effort, but refs need to appear appropriately in text (not tacked on to end of paras). May be some unsupported assertions.	Referencing needs work. Too many unsupported assertions. Inconsistent in-text referencing. Errors in list of refs.	No or inadequate in-text referencing. Poor list of refs. Relies on unsupported assertions. Borderline plagiarism.
Presentation marked out of 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and readable in formatting and presentation • Clear and readable in terms of written expression, including adequate spelling, grammar, proper use of sentences and paragraphs, and academic style • Conforms with word length requirements 	Meets all criteria. Excellent standard of expression and presentation. Engaging and interesting writing.	Meets most criteria well. May be some areas where writing is awkward or contains minor errors.	Good effort but writing may need improvement eg. paras & sentence construction & grammar. May need more formal, neutral style.	Writing in general need of improvement – makes reading essay quite difficult. Errors in construction, grammar, spelling, style.	Writing very hard to follow. Many errors in construction, grammar, spelling, word choice, style.