This course begins with an analysis of the meanings of gender and violence, then considers the range of actions considered gender violence and the way the terminology has changed over time. The creation of gender violence as a social problem is a product of social movements in the US, Europe, India, and many other parts of the world. It is now understood globally as an important human rights violation. The course considers several theories that attempt to account for gender violence and points to the importance of examining variations in gender violence in terms of context and meaning. Forms of violence to be discussed include domestic violence in same and opposite sex relationships, rape, sex trafficking, rape in wartime, female genital cutting, honor killings, sex selection, among others. The course links these forms of violence to other forms of violence in the wider society, showing how interpersonal violence is connected to structural violence.

A second theme of the course is the way law acts to change social behavior. It examines forms of intervention which have been developed in the US and globally for diminishing violence against women, including policing, prosecution, and punishment. We will consider the debates surrounding criminalization among people of color in the US and globally as well as other forms of intervention include shelters, counseling, batterer treatment programs, and public education. After examining the development of these approaches in the US, the course examines how they have globalized, focusing in particular on the role of the international human rights movement in defining gender-based violence as a human rights abuse.

The course joins an anthropological approach to the study of gender with the analysis of law and society as it examines forms of intervention developed to ameliorate and change a range of gendered violations of women. The focus is both national and international, exploring variability across race, class and community. 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 and a final exam. Students are expected to do the reading, attend all classes, and participate in class discussions. The short essays are each worth 30% of the grade, the final exam 40%. There are five required texts. Three are
in the bookstore and two are available online on Blackboard. The rest of the readings are also available on Blackboard.

**Required Books:**


**January 16-18:**  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.

Merry, *An Introduction to Gender Violence*, Chapters 1 and 2.

**January 23-25:** Theorizing Gender and Kinship


**January 30 – February 1:  The Global Scope of Gender Violence**


**February 6:  Intersectionality**


**February 8:  Variations in Gender Violence by Race, Class, Nation, Sexualities, Colonial Histories**


First paper due Feb 8: 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 pp.

Feb 13-15: Gender Violence and Conquest


Feb 20-22: The History of the Movement

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

Schechter, S., Women and Male Violence, Part I (pp. 1-209). Merry, ch. 3

Feb. 27- March 1: Theories about Gender Violence


**March 6-8: Modes of Intervention: Shelters and Support Groups**

- Intersection of gender violence and criminal justice system
- No-drop policies, mandatory arrest, restraining orders, batterer’s treatment programs, and the politics of criminalization.

Merry, ch. 4


**March 20-22: Batterer Training Groups**


**Second paper, due March 27:** What are the advantages and drawbacks of criminal justice interventions for domestic violence and sexual assault? 5 pp.

**March 27 – 29:** Gender policing and violence


**April 3 - 5:** 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?


**April 10-12:** Strategies of Intervention in Violence Against Women
Spindel, With an End in Sight. UNIFEM. Available in separate chapters on Blackboard.

**April 17-19: Gender Violence and Human Rights Issues I: Female Genital Cutting and Military Violence**


Somalia report


**April 24-26: Honor Killing, and Police Violence**

