

## Criminal Justice/Women Studies 403

### Talking About Gender

[Faith E. Lutze]

#### Slide # 1

##### No Title

- *[Image of Washington State University – Center for Distance and Professional Education logo]*

##### Audio:

*[Intro sound playing]*

#### Slide # 2

##### Talking About Gender

- Criminal Justice/Women Studies 403
- Faith E. Lutze, Ph.D.

##### Audio:

[Faith E. Lutze]: “Today we are going to talk about gender and the importance that people feel comfortable in this class talking about a variety of topics from a variety of perspectives. In my belief that to feel safe talking about these ideas means that we move forward in our learning and our knowledge base and what we become capable of applying to very complex problems.”

#### Slide # 3

##### Introduction

- It is important that everyone in this class feel comfortable discussing violence toward women in the context of gender, race, class, and sexual orientation.
- Multi-cultural environment and participants
- Victims, survivors, and loved ones among us
- All women are not bitches and all men are not dogs!

##### Audio:

[Faith E. Lutze]: “Today we are basically going to work on getting everyone in the class comfortable not just discussing violence towards women, but discussing this violence in a context of gender, race, class, and sexual orientation. It is important for all of you to realize that the makeup of this class and the communities that we live in are very multi-cultural and this class is going to take place in multicultural environment and sometimes we forget because we are identifying with Washington State University and for those that live in Washington that we are only talking to others who live in the state of Washington and who are familiar with our orientation, but realize that because this is a distance degree program and a course offered within that, that participants in our class can be living anywhere in our whole world, anywhere in the United States, and anywhere within our state, in terms of the state of Washington. So, it is important when you are thinking about this topic and how we discuss it that we think about it as a multicultural context. It is also important to understand that this class touches people in very different ways because we have victims in the class, survivors, and loved ones among us that have experienced crimes and violence towards women. So, people come to this topic from very different positions and from very different experiences so it is important to be aware of that in terms of how we interact, discuss the topic, and so forth. Although this is a social science class and we are going to base our learning on social science in terms of research and theory and

policy, and we are going to use our readings and our discussions to emphasize that connection, it is important that we do this in the context of science. However, that does not minimize how this information affects people differently. So I encourage you to please keep that in mind as we go through the course.

Now, it is also important to understand that not all of us are at the same level of awareness, understanding, or knowledge about gender, race, class, and sexual orientation. We all have to think about remaining open and to learn new ideas and so forth; and even though most of us think that we are very well aware and totally understand the complexities of gender, race, class, and sexual orientation, there is always something more to learn. I know that happens to me every time I teach a course, that I always learn something new. We shouldn't fear saying something that might be inappropriate or insensitive because we may do that without even realizing that we are doing that. What we need to be open to though, however, is a response to that and an openness to learning more, so I encourage you then to not be afraid to ask any question or to engage in any topic, but to always be sensitive and respectful as we go forward because of the multitude of people and experiences and differences that exist within this course. I say this with some controversy but I do want to be blunt: all women are not bitches and all men are not dogs. The reason why I say this is because in our society, in our culture in the United States we tend to think that if women challenge men's authority, even violent men, even though non-violent men are also just as opposed to violent behavior, still, bringing this to public attention and putting it on the forefront of issues and concerns often times are perceived that all women that bring forth such complaints really are bitchy or angry or overly emotional. As you move through this course you will understand how violence towards women permeates all of our lives and women are taught to defend against this their entire lives and unfortunately often times we do have to defend against it because the threat is real.

As you go through this course and read the complexities of domestic violence and the challenges faced by women attempting to escape the violence, as you read about the court process and the rape victims and when you read about what happens in terms of sexual harassment and so forth. The injustice of it may make you angry and you should be angry about it. That anger should not then be translated, especially when women show that anger as women hating men or being overly emotional and basically being the stereotype of bitchiness. Having said that, it is also important to note, as I say, that all men are not dogs. There tends to often times have a notion because of the injustices that occur and the horrible outcomes of violence towards women often perpetrated at the hands of men is a notion that often wants to generalize that all men are bad. And that is just an unacceptable as the counter stereotype of women. In this class I want it to be clear that non-violent men are women's allies in stopping violence committed by other men. It is rare that we think about violent towards women and its effect on men. We are going to focus primarily in this class on the effects on women because it's a violence towards women class, but I want you to be thinking and extrapolating how violence towards women affects non-violent men. If you think about this, as demonstrated by the statistics given in the previous lecture, it's likely that non-violent men will date or marry a women that has been victimized by other men's violence. Men, due to the threat of general male violence, are put in positions that they feel they have to protect the girls and women in their lives from other men's violence. Once again, it is rare that we think about this, that the violence perpetrated against women also has a negative affect against non-violent men. They are the ones that often times provide the support, and the

survival, and so forth, to women who have been victimized by other men. I just want to make clear that in order to solve problems related to violence towards women, that men and women need to work together to make that happen; that men need to speak out to other men who are violent, and women need to speak out to men and women alike about the inappropriateness of such violence. So, having said that, it is important, especially when we start moving into gender theory and feminist theory, folks understand that if you haven't had a background in this that men and women alike often times feel somewhat uncomfortable or challenged by the material at first because it questions the very core of our socialization along gender lines and that is what we are going to talk about today, is how to really think about and be aware of gender and how thoroughly it permeates our lives and how gender power imbalances when questioned makes a lot us very uncomfortable. We have to put it on the table and talk about it and think about it so that you are open to the materials that are presented throughout the class and that barriers don't go up, basically either having to defend women and their approach and anger and so forth to this topic and men don't have to put up defenses to protect their masculinity in light of the material. Once again, all women are not bitches and all men are not dogs. So keep that in mind as we move through the course so we can have open and honest discussions."

#### Slide # 4

##### Analyzing Course Material

- Social Context
  - The time in which we live, what is happening here and now dragging along historical influences (some negative – some positive)
  - Examples: technology, medicine, birth control, education, race relations

##### Audio:

[Faith E. Lutze]: "Now, in terms of analyzing course material, it is really important that we consider three things: social context, theory, and policy. We are going to go through each of these now and the interconnectedness between them and once again we are just setting the stage for how to think about and how to interpret much of the material that will be coming your way in the next several weeks.

**Social Context:** basically the time in which we live, what is happening here and now, and often times dragging along historical influences. So, some of those influences are negative, some are positive. And we do live with some of those historical influences, so when we think about, and we will talk about this in a few moments, about women's lives, men's lives, how we interact with one another, how things have changed over time, what vestiges of the past do we pull to us in the future and many of these same experiences as they relate to race, religion, class, sexual orientation, all of these different things are all embedded in a social context. Basically, our experiences now when we think about social context are different from those in the past, generations of the past, and what will be different from those in the future. So to give you some examples of this: our social context is very different of that of our grandparents in terms of the use of technology, our ability to communicate from anywhere in the world instantaneously, not just in terms of voice messages, but also visual images and so forth. If you think about the war in Iraq, it is an interesting example of that in the first time in which we are getting live video feed from the battlefield as it is happening. Those types of changes make a difference in terms of our ability to interpret and respond to things as we go through our lives. It is very different from generations in the past.