GWST 5300: Seminar in Gender Studies
“Criminal Bodies/Criminal Minds”

What does it mean to call some kinds of bodies and minds not just undesirable but illegal? This seminar is an inquiry into culturally-defined Western ideas of deviance in relation to gender and sexuality and the ways in which those ideas have affected people with a variety of socially constructed bodies, identities, and subjectivities. We will focus in particular on how notions of deviance have been used in the modern era to categorize individuals/groups as criminals and the consequences of those processes for individuals and society, especially for those who are often marginalized. This course will approach the material from an interdisciplinary perspective and will analyze both canonical theoretical texts on deviance and criminality as well as case studies – historical, legal, literary, philosophical, psychological, sociological. No prior experience with GWST courses necessary.

4:30-7:10 PM Tuesday
Morrill Hall 202

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