



"The Shame of Sexual Violence," Dr. Debra Bergoffen, Tucker-Boatwright Professor in Gender Violence, Spring 2018, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, **WGSS 379-02 Wednesdays 4:30-6:10 pm**

This course will examine the complex ways shame operates in sexual violence. On the one hand rape-shame plays a crucial role in degrading, humiliating and silencing its targets. Identifying the raped person as shameful serves the institutionalization of gender norms by reminding its victims of the danger of violating these norms. Thus shame operates as a disciplinary mechanism. On the other hand, acts of sexual violence and perpetrators of these acts are seen as shameful. No one willingly identifies as a rapist. Thus the "they asked for it", "they wanted it" defense. Reading and discussions during the semester will examine this doubled work of shame within the context of sexual violence.

