

**Sociology 3830: 92-981
Violence in Society
Spring, 2007**

I. Course Information

Time: MWF 10:10A-11:00A

Place: Baldwin 322

II. Instructor Information

Bonnie Semora

419 Baldwin Hall

semora@uga.edu

phones: UGA 542-3208

Office Hours: MW 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. and by appointment

NOTICE!!!

**Students who do not attend class or contact the instructor by end of day
Wednesday, Jan 10, will be dropped from the course!**

III. Texts and Supplemental Readings

Violence in America. 2004. Ed. by R. R. Gurr. Sage Publications

Extreme Killing. 2005. James Alan Fox & Jack Levin. Sage Publications.

Additional readings will be assigned as necessary.

IV. Course Description and Rational

As stated in the course description, in this class students will have the opportunity to review research and theory addressing the relationship between social structure and processes and criminal violence. Among the types of violence we will examine are child abuse, sexual assault, and homicide. We will examine relationships among violence, social class, race, education, and the media.

V. Grades

Grades will be based on the following:

A – 90% or higher

B – 80% - 89%

C – 70% - 79%

D – 60% - 69%

F – 59% and below

VI. Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are required. I will take roll each day. Please arrive in class on time. If you cannot stay until the end of class, please let me know **before** the class begins. Any student who does not attend at least 75% (3/4) of classes before the midpoint of the semester may be dropped from the roll. Keep in mind that 5% of your course grade is based on attendance and participation. Any student who does not attend at least 75% (3/4) of classes after the midpoint of the semester will surely lose those points. I will **consider** excusing absences for which you provide a good, documented reason.

If you have a personal emergency or illness which prevents you from attending class or from doing your best in class, you may certainly let me know. You may also notify the **Student Affairs Office**. They can verify your problem and notify your instructors while maintaining confidentiality concerning the reason for your absence. Such absences may be excused.

Bonus points will be given for good attendance. There are **no excused absences in computing bonus points**. The bonus points given for attendance are:

Perfect attendance	2 points
1-2 missed classes	1 points
3 or more	0

I enjoy having lively discussions in class, but I expect you to make your comments to the whole class. We will discuss controversial subjects. Please respect the rights and feelings of others when forming your comments.

Exams

Tests will include multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions. The final exam may include objective, short answer, and essay questions. On the final exam you may be asked to integrate material you have studied during the course of the class. That is, the short answer and short essay questions on the final exam will be **cumulative**.

If you must miss an exam, please notify me the day of the exam, preferably before class. You will have two (2) calendar days in which to contact me about a makeup IF you have a valid excuse such as a documented illness. You must take the makeup within seven (7) calendar days. Failure to do so will result in your being dropped from the course (before the midpoint) or receiving a 0 on the test with no opportunity to raise the grade (after the midpoint).

Group Project and Presentation

The class will be divided into groups of 4 to 5 students, based on students' interest in a common topic. Each group will prepare a presentation on a subject related to race and culture. There are specific topics I want the groups to cover, but some groups may be able to choose their own topic. Presentations will take place during the classes before and after the second and third tests. You will be given more specific information during class about how to prepare the presentations.

Optional Research Paper

You may write a research paper of 8 to 12 pages on any issue relevant to the course to substitute for a low test grade, but **NOT** to substitute for a missed test. The paper may be a more detailed look at the subject of your group project, or you may examine another topic. You are expected to draw on literature from professional journals which use peer review. You may also use material from the popular press. A handout with specific requirements will be provided during class.

Grades on your papers will be based on the quality of your research, your understanding of the material, the level of innovation you display, and the quality of your writing. If you want me to review a rough draft of your paper, you must turn it in to me by Friday November 3. Completed papers are due on Wednesday, November 15. You will be penalized for turning in late papers at the rate of 10% per class meeting.

Warning: Many students copy lines directly from the articles they are summarizing. Those lines which are copied must be marked with quotation marks or, if the material exceeds three (3) lines, indented and single spaced. Failure to indicate that material is quoted is plagiarism—use of the words or ideas of another without giving them credit. Plagiarism is a violation of academic honesty.

VII. Student Evaluations: Course Requirements

25%	Test 1 – Monday, Feb 12
25	Test 2 – Monday, April 2
30	Final Exam – May 4, 2007, 8:00 - 11:00 am
[25	optional paper to replace a low grade on Test 1 or 2]
17	group presentation
<u>3</u>	<u>Attendance and Participation</u>
100%	Total

You must complete ALL work in this class in order to pass.
You may not omit any projects!

CLASS SCHEDULE

- Introduction **Jan 8-11 drop/add**
 Violence definitions - lecture
Jan 15 MLK Holiday
- Week 2: Murder definitions: Fox & Levin Ch 1, 3
- Week 3: History of violence: Gurr
- Week 4: Types & causes of violence: Lecture and readings
 Black – conflict resolution
- Week 5: Gender and violence: Lecture & readings
Test 1, Monday, February 12
- Week 6: Social disorganization – gangs; violence against kids
Mid Term Feb 26(not a test day)
- Week 7: Social learning theory - police
Monday, March 1, Last day to withdraw w/o penalty
- Week 8: Alcohol and drugs: Gurr, lecture, readings
- Week 9: Presentations
March 12-16, Spring Break
- Week 10: Presentations
Test 2, Monday, April 2
- Week 11: Murder: Gurr (firearms and violence, 20th century)
Rough drafts of papers due (optional)
- Week 12, 13: Serial Murder: Fox & Levin Chs 3, 9, 4, 5, 8
Optional papers due
- Week 14, 15: Serial Murder: Massacres: Chs 13-16
April 30 – last day of class

<p style="text-align: center;">FINAL EXAM May 4, 2007 8:00 - 11:00 am</p>
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