



SOC 396: Summer 2023

Violence in Society

Asynchronous Online Class

Jul 24, 2023 - Aug 18, 2023

Dorothy R. De Boer, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology and Social Work
Criminal Justice Coordinator
901-270-8077

Zoom Virtual Office. Office hours for the week will be posted in the announcements every Monday by 6 AM. I will also be available outside these times, virtually, in person or over the phone.

Individual zoom appointments are encouraged. Please try to schedule an appointment 24 hours in advance by contacting me through the Canvas Inbox or Help menu located along the purple navigation bar on the left side of the screen.

Email: Send all questions through Canvas, not Outlook.

Please message through Canvas by going to the Help icon and then clicking on Ask Your Instructor a question.



Ask Your Instructor a Question
Submit a question to your instructor

Phone: 901-270-8077; please call or text between 8 AM and 10 PM.

Courses Description: Americans are tantalized and terrified by violence. We watch television shows about serial killers, cheer for violent sporting events, and spend billions of dollars on video games that engage players in reckless carnage. Yet, Americans fear violent crime and call for action when violence gets too close to their homes. This class will examine violence in American society and the various issues that surround our fascination with, and fear of, violence. This class will examine the history of violence in America, recent incidents, and current violent trends in American society. It will examine the media portrayal of violence and introduce to students to a variety of perspectives regarding violence. It will also survey the programs developed to decrease violence.

Trigger Warning: This course will explore several topics that students may find upsetting. These include rape, domestic abuse, hate crimes, terrorism, child abuse, torture, and violence against animals. Graphic images and video will be used throughout the term to connect theoretical topics with lived realities. While trigger warnings will be placed before such content, your presence in this course requires a willingness to engage with difficult material. Such is the nature of violence.

Course Structure. This course will be delivered entirely online through the Canvas course management system. Use your UWSP student account to log in to the course from the Canvas Login Page (Links to an external site.). If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the Manage Your Account page to do so. All assignments and essays must be submitted on Canvas. Be sure to read the Canvas announcement every day. After reading the announcement, please carefully examine the module of the day.

Student Expectations. In this course, you will be expected to complete the following tasks:

- read textbook daily.
- examine PowerPoint as a review of textbook (NOT in place of the textbook)
- watch videos and other audio-visual materials.
- communicate via Canvas message (see directions in syllabus tab)
- complete basic internet searches
- download and upload documents to the Canvas LMS

Course Requirements. Students need to log into Canvas daily, Monday to Friday, from July 24 to the end of the class. Students are required to participate in group and class discussions, take three examinations, and complete quizzes, discussion posts, and essays. Please always consult the module for the day for expectations (tasks) and class materials.

Courses Learning Outcomes. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the different types of violent crime.
- Explain the trends, patterns, and characteristics of the different types of violent crime.
- Explore the issues surrounding the definitions of violence.
- Review historical antecedents to present day forms and patterns of violent crime.
- Explain the various theories that suggest explanations concerning the nature, type, and patterns of violent crime.
- Discover and re-evaluate their own ideas, opinions, and values concerning violence and its causes.

Course Technology Requirements. Students will need a stable internet connection (do not rely on cellular) to participate in this course.

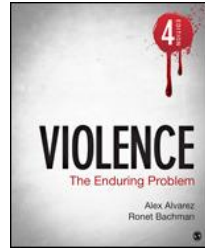
Technical Assistance. If you need technical assistance during the course or report a problem with Canvas, you can click the Help button near the bottom left of the Canvas navigation screen. From there, you have the following options:

- Ask a question of your instructor (this is also how you send me messages)
- Email Canvas personnel
- Chat with Canvas personnel
- You can also look up Canvas guides for documentation on issues and seek assistance from the IT Service Desk.

Required Reading

Violence: An Enduring Problem by Alex Alvarez and Ronet D. Bachman, 4th edition

Selected articles and audio-video material will also be posted on Canvas.



Students with Disabilities. The University has a legal responsibility to provide accommodations and program access as mandated by Section 54 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The University's philosophy is to not only provide what is mandated but also convey its genuine concern for one's total well-being. If accommodations are needed, please contact the instructor and the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in room 108 in the Collins Classroom Center (CCC). DRC contact information is (715) 346-3365 (Voice), (715) 346-3362 (TDD only), or via email at drc@uwsp.edu.

Assessment and Grading. There will be four scheduled exams given. Each exam is worth 100 points. These exams will include multiple-choice, short essays, and matching questions.

There will be a combination of discussion posts and four weekly exams.

The following is the tentative class plan.

Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Exam 4	100
<u>Discussions</u>	<u>30 (10 points per discussion, three are required)</u>

Tentative Total 430

Letter grades will be assigned based on the percentage of the points that are earned. Grades will be assigned as follows:

93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
59 or below	F

Academic Integrity. The University has clearly articulated its policies governing academic integrity, and students are encouraged to carefully review the policy identified under UWSP Community Rights and Responsibilities. If you are not fully aware of these rights and responsibilities, please see the Student Rights and Responsibilities available in PDF format <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx> (Links to an external site.). Specifically, you may wish to examine Chapter 14–Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures. Any deviation from these expectations

will result in academic penalties as well as disciplinary action. The area of most significant potential risk for inadvertent academic dishonesty is plagiarism. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, paraphrasing or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Please be sure to cite all material you use. For the most part, your primary source will be your textbook. More information on citation expectations will be provided in the daily announcements.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities. Reasonable accommodation is available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to participate in this class fully, contact the Office of Student Disability. All accommodations must be approved through the Office of Student Disability Services.

Diversity. In order to learn, we must be open to the views of people different than ourselves. In the time we share in discussions or Zoom conferences, please honor the uniqueness of your classmates, and appreciate the opportunities we must learn from one another.

Class Modules. The topics for the day are listed in the modules for each day. The class calendar offers a quick guide to the assigned reading; this is not your only expectation. For more details on the daily expectations and the assignment, you will want to see the module for each day. Please Note: Material posted on Canvas (films, news, articles, etc.) are intended to complement your textbook, and are required and maybe on the exams. Again, please see the module for each day on Canvas.

BE SURE TO CHECK CANVAS MODULES DAILY!!!

	date	Day	Topic	Textbook Reading
Week One	7/24	1	Complete Canvas Orientation Quiz Introduction to Course	
	7/25	2	DEFINING VIOLENCE	Chapters 1
	7/26	3	WHY DO WE DO IT- Explanations for Violence	Chapter 2
	7/27	4	ASSAULT AND MURDER	Chapter 3
	7/28	5	Exam 1 available - Due Monday 7/31 by 11:59 PM	
Week Two	7/31	6	Exam 1 due	
	8/1	7	SERIAL, MASS, AND SPREE KILLING	Chapter 4
	8/2	8	VIOLENCE IN THE HOME	Chapters 5
	8/3	9	RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT	Chapter 6
	8/4	10	Exam 2 available- Due Monday 8/7 by 11:59 PM	
Week Three	8/7	11	Exam 2 due	
	8/8	12	STRANGER CRIME AND STREET VIOLENCE STRANGER CRIME AND STREET VIOLENCE	Chapter 7
	8/9	13	HATE CRIMES	Chapter 8
	8/10	14	CROWD VIOLENCE	Chapter 9
	8/11	15	Exam 3 available- Due Monday 8/14 by 11:59 PM	
Week Four	8/14	16	Exam 3 due	
	8/15	17	TERRORISM	Chapter 10
	8/16	18	GENOCIDE	Chapter 11
	8/17	19	TOWARD VIOLENCE PREVENTION	Chapter 12
	8/18	20	Exam 4 available -Due Sunday 8/20 by 11:59 PM	