

Rutgers University – Newark

Violent Crime

47:202:324:01

Fall 2018

Hill 115

Wednesday and Friday: 11:30am – 12:50pm

Instructor: Dr. Binneh s Minteh
Office Hours: By appointment
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I. Course Information

This course provides an in-depth analysis of the relationship between violence and criminal behavior. The course assesses the theoretical bases of violence by looking at anthropological, biological, and sociological explanations. It provides students with an understanding of violence within the context of individual, group, and societal behavior.

Prerequisites: None

B.S., Criminal Justice Program Learning Goals

Upon completion of the B.S. in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark, students should be able to:

- 1) Describe the development and functions of major criminal justice institutions (e.g., police, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice), the activities of actors within these institutions, and how they relate to one another as well as the broader social, political, and economic world.
- 2) Describe the mechanisms, correlates, theoretical underpinnings, and situational contexts of crime, criminal behavior and opportunity, and techniques for prevention and treatment.

- 3) Apply and analyze theories related to the policies and practices of the criminal justice system and its major institutions.
- 4) Demonstrate the ability to gather, explain, and apply empirical research in the field of criminal justice.
- 5) Obtain a comprehensive knowledge about the process of conducting criminal justice research, and develop the skills to conduct criminal justice research with appropriate methodologies.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss methodological issues in counting violence.
- Evaluate the sources of crime statistics.
- Compare and contrast assault, homicide, and sexual assault.
- Understand violence within the context of the family.
- Evaluate the link between social class and violence.
- Identify the link between race and violence.
- Recognize the link between mental illness and violence
- Understand the nature vs. nurture debate.
- Recognize the inadequacy of single-factor explanations.
- Compare and contrast male versus female perpetrated domestic homicide.
- Identify the causes of youth violence and the origin of youth gangs
- Determine the link between violent video games and violent behavior
- Understand domestic violence.
- Understand terrorism and genocide.

Required Course Materials

- Alvarez. A, Bachman. R. *Violence: The Enduring Problem*, Sage: Third Edition, Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore, Washington DC, Melbourne, 2017, ISBN:978-1-5063-4906-0
- All other readings will be posted on Blackboard

Course Requirements:

Students are required to read assigned readings and participate in classroom discussions in a manner that reflects familiarity with the readings and previous class sessions. Students are required to access the course website regularly to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings and other course announcements.

Course Structure:

The course will incorporate diverse learning activities including lectures, PowerPoint presentations, and group discussions.

Classroom learning is a group activity that depends upon everyone's full participation in order to succeed. I expect students to: be prepared to begin class on time, silence or turn off and put away cell phones and other electronic devices, read and be prepared to discuss homework, submit assignments on time, and assist your classmates. You can expect that I will: be on time and prepared for every class, be available via email and appointments to answer questions, make every class engaging and valuable, and respect your contributions to class.

Course Assignments

Readings. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings *before* each class meeting. Class lectures and discussions will provide a venue to share insights gained from the assigned readings and to ask questions about issues of concern from the readings. Students also are responsible for reading all supplemental material assigned or provided.

II. Course Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings or Other Assignments</i>
Week 1 : Sep 5/7	Course Introduction—	
	Conceptualizing Violent Crime / Social Causes of Violent Behavior	Alvarez and Bachman, Chap 1
Week 2: Sep 12/14	Explaining Violence: Ethological and Biological Explanations	Alvarez and Bachman, Chap 2
	Sociological Explanations Collective Violence	
Week 3: Sep 19/21	Aiding and Abetting Violence	Alvarez and Bachman, Chap 3
Week 4: Sep 26/28	Assault and Murder: A continuum of Violence	Alvarez and Bachman, Chap 4
	Exam I	

Week 5: Oct 3/5	Violence in the Home Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Risk Factors for (IPV) Response to IPV Violence against LGBT Child Abuse Elder Abuse	Alvarez and Bachman, Chap 5
Week 6: Oct 10/12	Rape and Sexual Violence Rape on College Campuses Rape in Prisons Rape and the US Military	Alvarez and Bachman, Chap 6 Read stories from the “Voices and Faces Project” http://endsexualviolence.org/survivor-stories/survivor-gabe
	Rape in America	Excerpts from <i>Lived Through This</i> on Blackboard
Week 7: Oct 17/19	Violence in The Streets	
	Robbery Violent Hate Crime Work Place Violence Murder and Homicide	Alvarez and Bachman, Chap 7
Week 8: Oct 24/26	Overview of First Half of Course. Mid-Term Exam	
Week 9: Oct 31/ Nov 2	Gang violence	Alvarez and Bachman, Chap 7 J. Howell & S. Decker “The Youth Gangs, Drugs and Violence Connection” U. S. Department of Justice, <i>Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Juvenile Justice Bulletin</i> , 1999 available on Blackboard
	Exposure to Violence	J. Howell & A. Egley, and K. Gleason. “Modern Day Youth Gangs ” U. S. Department of Justice, <i>Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Juvenile Justice Bulletin</i> , 2002 available on Blackboard
Week 10: Nov 7/9	Crowds and Violence	Alvarez and Bachman, Chap 8

	<p>Media and Violence Copycat Crime</p> <p>Exam II</p>	<p>John P. Murray, Media Violence: The Effects Are Both Real and Strong, <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i> Vol 51 No 8, April 2008 available on Blackboard</p> <p>Jennifer A. Manganello, Teens, Dating Violence, and Media Use, <i>Trauma, Violence & Abuse, Vol. 9, No. 1, January 2008</i> available on Blackboard</p>
Week 11:Nov14/16	Serial Killers	
<p>Week 12: Nov21</p> <p>Nov 22-25 Thanksgiving Recess</p>	<p>Terrorism History of Terrorism Types of Terrorism Tactics and Weapons Response to Terrorism Home Grown Terrorism</p>	<p>Alvarez and Bachman, Chap 9</p> <p>“Obama Warns U.S. Faces Diffuse Terrorism Threats” Available on Blackboard</p> <p>Perry, Ashlie and Minteh, Binneh S., Home Grown Terrorism in the United States (US): Causes, Affiliations and Policy Implications (January 8, 2014). Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=2518616 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2518616</p>
Week 13:Nov 28/30	Genocide	Alvarez and Bachman, Chap 10
Week 14: Dec 5/7	<p>Towards Prevention of Violence Cost of Violence Criminal Justice Response to Violence as a Public Health Problem</p>	Alvarez and Bachman, Chap 11 Chapter 1 &2 , Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook available on Blackboard
Week 15:Dec 12	<p>Class Wrap Up</p> <p>FINAL EXAM</p>	TBA

III. Grading

Grading: 500 points

Course Components	Possible Points
Attendance/ Participation (10%)	50
Class Exam 2 at 75 points each (30%)	150
Mid Term Exam (20%)	100
Final Exam (40%)*	200

Letter Grade
A 90 - 100%
B+ 85 -89%
B 80-84%
C+ 75-79%
C 70-74%
F 60%

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation constitute an integral part of your grade. Two or more unexcused absences will affect a portion of your grade. As such, students' attendance and active participation is important. Failure to attend a class or leaving class before its conclusion will constitute an absence without a valid reason supported by documentation. *If you miss more than two (2) classes without a documented excuse, your ability to pass this class will be placed in serious jeopardy.* Also, it is important to note that lateness will not be tolerated. You will be considered late if you arrive after class has started. *Please note that three (3) tardy days equate to one absence.*

Exams: There will be two class exams worth 150 points, a midterm worth 100 points and a final exam worth 200 points. Except in serious cases of emergency, no makeup exam will be granted.

- **Class Exam:** Each exam consists of two parts: 20 multiple choice questions, 20 True or False identification questions. Students who miss exams will be marked down unless they have a valid medical or university business excuse. The exams will be in class without books, notes, computers, phones, audio devices, or other aids.
- **Mid-Term Exam:** This is a two-part exam and students are required to answer all questions. Part one is a multiple choice category of 25 questions. Part Two is a True or False Category of 25 questions. Students must answer all questions.
- **Final Exams:** This is a cumulative final examination designed to confirm student understanding of the concept of violence and violent crime in criminal justice. In this exam students will be assigned Multiple choice, True/ False, and Short Questions. No text books, computers or cell phones are allowed during the exams.

IV. Course Policies

Classroom Rules

All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. Laptops are permitted only if disengaged from the internet and other electronic devices should be stored away unless you specifically seek the instructor's permission. In this class, we may have discussions that challenge our taken for granted assumptions about crime and justice. Students should be prepared to engage honestly and openly about this material and perhaps even examine their own beliefs about the issues. While I am hopeful that the course materials will spark interesting discussion, personal insults or other types of demeaning, disrespectful, or threatening comments toward other class members about their experiences, backgrounds, or statements will not be tolerated. No eating and use of cell phone is allowed in the classroom.

Academic Integrity

As a member of the Rutgers University community, you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity>

Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university's policy will result in appropriate action.

Academic Resources

Students with Disabilities

Rutgers University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Policy of the University and in compliance with § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For additional information please visit the website <https://ods.rutgers.edu/> or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

Allen Sheffield
Director of ADA Services and Academic Support
Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352
350 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: 973.353.5300
Fax: 973.353.5666
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Website: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Psychological and Counseling Services

If you experience psychological or other difficulties as a result of this course, or because of other issues that may interfere with your performance in the course, please contact the university's psychological and counseling service center (<http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu>; 973-353-5805), which is located in Blumenthal Hall, room 101. The center offers a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students who are enrolled at Rutgers.

If you are interested in finding out more about

- Accelerated Master's Program (B.S. /M.A.)
- Criminal Justice National Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma)

Please refer to the School of Criminal Justice website <http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/>

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