

CCJS 225: Responses to Violence
Fall 2021
Section 0101
TuTh 9:30-10:45am
SQH 1120

INSTRUCTOR

Professor Jessica Morabito

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Office hours: Mon. and Wed. 11:00am-1:00pm, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What are the dimensions of violence in the United States and worldwide, and how has humanity responded to violence? This class uses an interdisciplinary approach to discuss historical, psychological, sociological, and criminological aspects of violence and the ways we respond to it. Students will explore various types of violence throughout the semester and will be encouraged to think critically about the etiology of violence and ways to prevent it. Students will engage with reading materials, videos, and documentaries as we explore these topics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the major questions and issues about responding to violence in the U.S. and around the world.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of basic terms, concepts, and approaches that experts employ in developing and studying responses to violence.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of how political, economic, and social structures frame our understanding of violence as well as various approaches to combating violence.
4. Communicate major ideas and issues about violence through effective written work.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Alvarez, A. & Bachman, R.D. (2021). *Violence: The Enduring Problem*, 4th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 9781544355658

You may use either the print or electronic version of the textbook, but you may not use a prior edition. Readings that are not from the textbook will be posted on the course website for you to download.

COURSE WEBSITE

This class uses Canvas (ELMS) for distribution of important course information. I will use it to make announcements to the class, post reading material that is not in your textbook, and update your grades. Go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID and password. You are able to adjust your individual settings to receive email notifications when new content is posted, if you wish. Please be sure to check this site regularly, as you are responsible for

knowing the material that I post. If you have any problems accessing ELMS, please contact the support desk at 301-405-1500.

GRADING POLICY

Your final grade will be determined according to the following assignment categories:

15% Quizzes

15% Documentary Reaction Paper

20% Group Project

25% Midterm

25% Take-Home Final Exam

I reserve the right to adjust the points/requirements if necessitated by a health emergency as declared by the University.

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

97-100% A+ 96%-93% A 92%-90% A-

89-87% B+ 86%-83% B 82%-80% B-

79%-77% C+ 76%-73% C 72%-70% C-

69%-67% D+ 66%-63% D 62%-60% D-

59% and below F

Final grades will be rounded up to the next percentage point at the 0.45% threshold. Grades will not be curved or negotiated at the end of the course.

QUIZZES

There will be 5 quizzes given in class to assess your understanding of the lecture and reading material. Quizzes will be given during the first 10 minutes of class, so be sure to arrive on time. Students who arrive late will only be given the time remaining to complete their quiz (i.e., if you are 3 minutes late, you will have 7 minutes to complete your quiz); students who arrive more than 10 minutes late will not be allowed to take the quiz. The quiz format may include multiple choice questions, matching, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and short answer questions. You may not use any course materials (i.e., your notes, the textbook) while taking the quizzes. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

DOCUMENTARY REACTION PAPER

Over the course of the semester, I will assign two documentaries for the class to watch. For **one** documentary of your choice, you will write a 2-3 page reaction paper in which you connect the material presented in the documentary to what you have learned in class (lectures, readings, other videos). Detailed instructions will be posted on ELMS. You must submit your reaction paper on the respective due date as a PDF document by 11:59pm. If you are writing about Documentary 1 on the DC Snipers, your reaction is due **October 7, 2021**. If you are writing about Documentary 2 on genocide in Myanmar, your reaction is due **November 4, 2021**. Please note that although you will only write about one documentary, you are still required to watch both.

GROUP PROJECT

This semester, you will work on a project in a group that is randomly assigned by me. As a group, you will identify a particular type of violence that needs to be addressed, assess current responses to this type of violence, and develop an innovative solution to the type of violence.

Your group will produce a paper and give a presentation during the last two weeks of the semester. Detailed information and rubrics will be provided in class and on ELMS.

MIDTERM EXAM

You will take one in-class exam in this course, a midterm that will be given on **October 12, 2021**. The exam will include a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions, for a total of 50 questions. The exams will be based on lecture and reading material, including any videos or documentaries assigned and/or shown in class. You may not use any course materials (i.e., your notes, your textbook) while taking the exam. Please make sure to bring a #2 pencil, an eraser, and your University ID to the exam. Please be on time for the exam, as **once the first student has turned in the exam no other students will be allowed to sit for the exam**.

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM

Your final exam will be a take-home written assignment. It will be cumulative, but will emphasize the material taught after the midterm. Detailed information will be provided on the last day of class, 12/9. Your take-home final is due **Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 10:00am**. You will submit your final via ELMS.

GRADE DISPUTES

If you have a concern about a grade on an exam or assignment and believe that I should review it, you must submit a written request over email that describes your concern in detail. Upon receiving your email, I may ask you to meet with me in person to further discuss your concern. You have **one week** after the assignment/exam grade is posted to submit a grade dispute.

MISSED CLASSES/MAKEUP POLICY/MISSED EXAMS/LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Makeup exams and assignments will only be given in cases of excused absences. Excused absences include religious observances, mandatory military obligation, illness of the student or illness of an immediate family member, required participation in university activities, death in the family, and required court appearances. Changes in employment schedules, personal travel, technical/internet problems, etc. do not qualify as excused absences.

The student must notify me in writing **prior** to missing an exam, quiz, or major graded assignment. If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam or assignment due date with an approved absence (you must notify me at least one week prior to the due date), you will be expected to take the exam or turn in the assignment prior to the exam/assignment due date.

Lectures: Students may miss lectures without notifying me, as attendance is not taken. However, repeatedly missing lectures is not advised. If you miss a class, you must obtain the lecture notes from a classmate. I will not post my lecture notes online, nor will I provide them to students regardless of circumstances. Once you have obtained the lecture notes, I am happy to go over any questions you have during my office hours.

Quizzes and Exams (Midterm AND Take-Home Final): Makeup quizzes and exams will only be given in cases of excused absences which always require **prior** written notice to the start of the exam or quiz and documentation to determine if your absence was excused. If you miss an exam or quiz and notify me after the start of the exam or quiz, you will **not** be able to reschedule the

exam or quiz. Please contact me immediately (before the start of the exam or quiz) to let me know if you will not make the exam or quiz so we can begin the process of rescheduling while you gather documentation. All makeup exams or quizzes must be completed as soon as you are able to return but no later than one week of the missed exam or quiz. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a grade of zero for the exam or quiz. Makeup exams will be a different format (e.g., short-answers and essay questions) and contain different questions than the original exam.

Documentary Reaction Paper: A late documentary paper without a documented excused absence will receive a grade reduction of 10% per day the paper is late, with a maximum of a 50% grade reduction. No papers will be accepted after 5 days beyond the due date. Grade reductions start 5 minutes after the deadline has passed and weekends count toward this calculation. If you have a documented, excused absence for the paper due date, you will be expected to turn the paper in by the next day, unless other arrangements are made with me. You must provide me with prior notification that you are unable to turn your paper in on time due to the documented, excused absence in order to avoid grade reductions.

Group Project: Due to the nature of the group project, late work is not accepted. However, if you know in advance that a group member will not be able to attend class the day that you have been assigned to present due to an excused reason, please get in touch with me immediately to see if we can adjust the schedule or make other arrangements. Documentation will be required. If a student is ill and misses their group project presentation, prior notification and official documentation are necessary to excuse the student from the presentation and make arrangements for an alternate form of assessment.

I reserve the right to verify all documentation of absences. If you are found to have fabricated documentation, you will be referred to the Student Honor Council.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

On occasion, the University may cancel classes due to inclement weather. If the university is closed on a day that a graded assignment is scheduled to be due or an exam is scheduled to be given, the graded assignment or exam will be rescheduled for the next class day that the University is open. Please note that the course schedule, including reading assignments, may need to be adjusted as a result of inclement weather-related class cancellations. I will keep you updated via ELMS of any such changes.

DISABILITY SUPPORT

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service office (ADS) and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS form which has been updated for Fall 2021. You must provide me with this form **by September 14, 2021**, in person so that we can discuss how I may best help you. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by ADS. ADS students who are requesting to take their exams at the ADS testing office in Shoemaker Hall need to make arrangements to do so through the ADS website and must provide me with a testing form online **at least three business days prior to the exam**; failure to do so will mean that the student must take the exam with the rest of the class. Any student

taking an exam at the ADS office is expected to take the exam on the same day and at the same starting time as the rest of the class; if you feel that you are unable to take the exam at the same day due to a scheduling conflict (i.e., another class), you must discuss this with me prior to submitting your request to the ADS testing office and submit documentation of your conflict.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVATIONS & ATHLETICS

If you will be observing a religious holiday or will have a University athletic obligation that will cause you to miss class, a paper due date, a quiz, or an exam, please let me know **by September 14, 2021**. If you will be missing an exam or quiz, you will be expected to take it prior to the exam/quiz date. If you will be missing a paper due date, you will be expected to turn it in prior to the due date.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/CONDUCT

The success of this class is dependent on our ability as a class to maintain an environment conducive to everyone's learning. As a department and a university, we expect both faculty and students to be prepared for class. We also expect students to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct. Disruptive behavior hinders other students' opportunity to learn and will not be tolerated in my classroom. Disruptive behaviors include arriving late, leaving the classroom repeatedly, making loud and distracting noises, playing music, vaping or similar activities, sleeping, using cell phones or prohibited technological devices, leaving class early, side conversations, speaking without being recognized, and interrupting other students while they are speaking. Disruptive behaviors may result in being asked to leave the class. In addition, this class will cover subjects that may personally affect you, someone you know, or other students; some of the material presented may touch on controversial topics. It is imperative that we maintain an environment where every student feels comfortable in the classroom. Students must treat each other and me with respect, particularly when discussing these topics. No one has the right to attack another's opinion or to attack another member of this class. Students who do not adhere to these policies will be asked to leave class and will be subject to referral to the CCJS Undergraduate Director, the Office of Student Conduct, or Campus Police.

I am committed to making this class a positive experience for all students. You can expect the following of me:

1. I will start class on time and will not keep you past 10:45.
2. I will be prepared for class.
3. I will adhere to my email policy as stated in the syllabus.
4. I will post grades promptly and will alert you to any anticipated delays.
5. I will be at my office hours during the times specified on the syllabus and this document, starting the second week of the semester. If I must cancel them for an emergency or reschedule them, I will give as much notice as possible.
6. I will stick to the assignment deadlines and exam dates that appear on the syllabus, unless the University is closed for an emergency.

Please visit www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

I will allow the use of laptops in class for note-taking and class activities only. I do not allow the use of cell phones in my classroom. If inappropriate use of technology becomes a repeated infraction, you will be asked to leave class for the rest of the day. I reserve the option to rescind laptop privileges for the remainder of the course if these problems continue to occur. If any technological devices are seen and/or used during an exam, the exam will be collected from you and you will no longer be allowed to continue taking the exam. The exam score will be noted as zero and you will be referred to the Student Honor Council.

EMAIL POLICY

Email is the University's official form of communication. As such, I expect that you will check your email daily to ensure that you receive important announcements relating to this class. In addition, I expect your emails to me to be professional. Please do not use chat-speak in your emails to me. You must email me from your University email address, not a personal email. This policy is to ensure the identity of the student, especially when the correspondence is about grades or personal matters. I do not guarantee a response to emails sent from a non-University email account. Please do not email me through ELMS. Please be sure to include CCJS225 in the subject line of your email, so that I know which class you are in.

I will make every effort to respond to your emails as quickly as possible. My general policy is to provide a same-day email response to emails received during business hours, Monday-Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm. I do not respond to emails over the weekend or on holidays and will respond to any emails by 5:00pm the next business day. Keeping these guidelines in mind, if you do not receive a reply from me within 24 hours of when you can anticipate a response, please re-send the email.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I take academic integrity very seriously. The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity which sets standards for academic integrity for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards in your courses. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. In this course, academic dishonesty of any form will not be tolerated. I strongly encourage you to visit <http://shc.umd.edu/SHC/StudentAcademicDishonesty.aspx> for further information about the Code of Academic Integrity, what constitutes academic dishonesty, and the Student Honor Council.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are a good opportunity for you to get some individualized assistance. I encourage you to come by my office hours, or schedule an appointment to meet with me, any time you need help with this course. I am happy to go over your graded assignments with you or answer any questions you have about the material from lecture or the assigned readings. If you are planning to attend office hours at the times listed at the top of the syllabus, you do not need to let me know that you plan to come by.

COURSE EVALUATIONS

Your feedback about this course is very important to me. At the end of the semester, you are encouraged to fill out the online evaluation, which you can access via www.courseevalum.umd.edu. As an incentive, students who complete evaluations for all of their courses in the previous semester are able to access the posted results of the evaluations for any course that has a response rate of at least 70%.

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Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Reading assignments are to be completed prior to the date on the schedule.

Week	Date	Lecture Topics	Reading Assignments
1	T 8/31	Course Introduction	Syllabus
	TH 9/2	Violence in American Society	No reading
2	T 9/7	Measuring Violence	p. 15-21
	TH 9/9	Ethological & Biological Theories	p. 34-43
3	T 9/14	Psychological Theories	p. 42-48
	TH 9/16	Sociological Theories	p. 48-59
4	T 9/21	Assault and Murder; Quiz 1	Chapter 3
	TH 9/23	Serial, Mass, and Spree Killing	p. 103-116
5	T 9/28	Documentary: "Born to Kill? The DC Snipers"	No reading
	TH 9/30	Violence in the Home, Part 1	Chapter 5
6	T 10/5	Violence in the Home, Part 2; Quiz 2	Article (see ELMS)
	TH 10/7	Group Project Work Day; DRP 1 due	
7	T 10/12	MIDTERM	
	TH 10/14	Rape and Sexual Assault, Part 1	Chapter 6
8	T 10/19	Rape and Sexual Assault, Part 2	Chapter 6
	TH 10/21	Genocide; Quiz 3	p. 319-334
9	T 10/26	Documentary: "Myanmar's Killing Fields"	No reading
	TH 10/28	Gang Violence	p. 219-225
10	T 11/2	Hate Crimes; Quiz 4	Chapter 8
	TH 11/4	Terrorism; DRP 2 due	Chapter 10
11	T 11/9	Group Project Work Day	
	TH 11/11	Costs of Violence and Violence Prevention; Quiz 5	Chapter 12
12	T 11/16	Violence Prevention	Chapter 12
	TH 11/18	No Class – ASC	
13	T 11/23	Group Project Work Day	
	TH 11/25	No Class -- Thanksgiving	
14	T 11/30	Group Project Presentations	
	TH 12/2	Group Project Presentations	
15	T 12/7	Group Project Presentations	
	TH 12/9	Group Project Presentations	

****Take Home Final Exam Due Thursday, Dec. 16 At 10:00am Via ELMS****