

**CCJS 225: Responses to Violence**  
**Fall 2023**  
**Section 0301**  
**TuTh 11:00am-12:15pm**  
**SQH 1117**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Professor Jessica Morabito  
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Office hours: Virtual office hours by appointment only

**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 the 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*, 4<sup>th</sup> 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; I strongly encourage you to adjust your settings so that you receive email notifications when announcements are posted. 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 (5 total)

15% Documentary Reaction Paper

25% Midterm

25% Group Project

20% Take-Home Final Exam

*\*I reserve the right to adjust the weighting, points, and/or course requirements if necessitated by a health or other 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\*

### **COURSE FORMAT**

Lectures for this course will be delivered in an in-person format, barring illness or emergencies. There is not an option to Zoom into class, lectures are not recorded for students, and lecture notes/slides will not be posted or distributed under any circumstances. Students are encouraged to exchange contact information with at least one peer so that they have someone to solicit lecture notes from if they miss class. Once the student has obtained notes from a classmate, the student is welcome to reach out to me for further clarification. In addition, please note that students are not allowed to take audio and/or video recordings of class unless they have a specific ADS accommodation and students are not allowed to take photographs of slides unless given specific permission.

### **QUIZZES**

Five online quizzes will be given to assess your understanding of course material. Quiz questions will be based on content presented in class (including media) and assigned readings. You will take each quiz on ELMS under the Quizzes tab. You will have 10 minutes to take each quiz, which will consist of 10 multiple-choice and true/false questions. The quizzes are open-note and open-book, but I recommend that you study for each quiz as if you were expected to take it without the use of your notes and book. You may not collaborate on or discuss the quiz with anyone, nor may you use AI or other tools to answer quiz questions. Each quiz will be open for a 12-hour period, from 7:00am to 7:00pm Eastern Time on the scheduled date; this time period is non-negotiable. It is highly recommended you complete each quiz with minimal distractions and a reliable internet connection. Quizzes not completed by the deadline will receive a zero. I will not answer quiz-related questions while the quiz is open, nor will I allow students to view their quiz answers on ELMS. You are welcome to make an appointment with

me to discuss your quiz. All quizzes will count toward your final grade (i.e., no quiz scores 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 5, 2023**. If you are writing about Documentary 2 on genocide in Myanmar, your reaction is due **November 7, 2023**. Please note that although you will only write about one documentary, you are still required to watch both.

### **MIDTERM EXAM**

You will take one in-class exam in this course, a midterm that will be given online on **October 10, 2023**. The exam will include a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions, for a total of 50 questions. The exam will be based on lecture and reading material, including any videos or documentaries assigned and/or shown in class. The midterm will be open-note and open-book, but I recommend that you study as if you were expected to take it without the use of your notes and book as you will only have 75 minutes to take the midterm. You may not collaborate on or discuss the midterm with anyone, nor may you use AI or other tools to answer midterm questions. The midterm will be open for a 12-hour period on ELMS, from 7:00am to 7:00pm Eastern Time; this time period is non-negotiable. Please note that if you begin the exam after 5:45pm Eastern Time, the time you have remaining will be reduced as you near 7:00pm Eastern Time as no exam can be submitted after this time. You will only get one attempt to complete the exam. It is highly recommended you complete the exam with minimal distractions and a reliable internet connection. Exams not completed by the deadline will receive a zero. I will not answer midterm-related questions while the midterm is open, nor will I allow students to view their midterm answers on ELMS. You are welcome to make an appointment with me to discuss your midterm.

### **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. We will discuss the Group Project in class on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, so please make every effort to be in class on that date.

### **TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM**

Your final exam will be a take-home written or creative assignment. It will be cumulative, but will emphasize the material taught after the midterm. Detailed information will be provided at the end of the semester on ELMS and in class on December 7. Your take-home final is due **Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 10:00am Eastern Time**. You will submit your final via ELMS.

## **EXTRA CREDIT**

Extra credit is not available in this class on either a class-wide or individual basis.

## **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, quiz, 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 quiz 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.

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.

**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.

### **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. If the University opens late and the opening time is after the start time of our class (11:00am), we will not hold class that day. 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.

### **ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SERVICES**

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 2023. You must provide me with this form **by September 12, 2023**, 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 one week 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 12, 2023**. 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 an assignment 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 12:15.
2. I will be prepared for class.
3. I will adhere to my email policy as stated in the syllabus.
4. I will make every effort to provide timely feedback on course assignments. I define "timely" as within two weeks of the assignment deadline.
5. 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](http://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. All campus-wide policies will be enforced in lecture and discussion.

## **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.

## **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. I do not guarantee a response to emails sent from a non-University email account. Please be sure

to include CCJS225 in the subject line of your email, so that I know which class you are in. Please do not message me through ELMS.

It is important to me to provide timely responses to your emails. I will make an effort 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 48 hours of when you can anticipate a response, please re-send the email. Before you email me, please check the syllabus, weekly instructions, and ELMS announcements to see if your question can be answered there (e.g., “what time will the exam be open?” is answered in the syllabus).

### **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. Some of your assignments will be collected via Turnitin on our course ELMS page; Turnitin is an originality checker that helps me verify the integrity of student work. For information about Turnitin, how it works, and the feedback reports you may have access to, visit [Turnitin Originality Checker for Students](#).

Unless I give explicit permission otherwise, please be advised that you are not permitted to use AI generated content in this course and doing so will be considered a violation of academic integrity.

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. If you are ever unclear about acceptable levels of collaboration, when and/or how to cite, or what actions I consider a breach of academic integrity, please ask me!

### **OFFICE HOURS**

This semester, my office hours will be held virtually and by appointment only. Please email me if you would like to set up a time to meet. Meetings will be held via Zoom and I will send you the Meeting ID once we have set up our appointment. Please be sure to log in to [umd.zoom.us](http://umd.zoom.us) and sign in with your University credentials in order to participate in our Zoom meetings as I cannot admit anyone from a waiting room.

### **NOTICE OF MANDATORY REPORTING**

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible University Employee,” and I must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to UMD’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy on Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of UMD’s confidential resources, such as [CARE to Stop Violence](#) (located on the Ground Floor of the Health Center) at 301-741-3442 or the [Counseling Center](#) (located at the Shoemaker Building) at

301-314-7651. You may also seek assistance or supportive measures from UMD's Title IX Coordinator by calling 301-405-1142, or emailing [titleIXcoordinator@umd.edu](mailto:titleIXcoordinator@umd.edu). To view further information on the above, please visit the [Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct's](#) website at [ocrsm.umd.edu](http://ocrsm.umd.edu).

### **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](http://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%.

### **COPYRIGHT**

The lectures that I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law. You are permitted to take notes on lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may NOT record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. You may NOT take pictures of my lectures/notes for your own personal use or for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).



### Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

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

Week	Date	Lecture Topics	Reading Assignments
<b>1</b>	T 8/29	Course Introduction	Syllabus
	TH 8/31	Violence in American Society	No reading
<b>2</b>	T 9/5	Measuring Violence	pp.15-21
	TH 9/7	Theories of Violence	Chapter 2
<b>3</b>	T 9/12	Theories of Violence, cont'd	Chapter 2
	TH 9/14	Assault and Murder; <b>Quiz 1 due</b>	Chapter 3
<b>4</b>	T 9/19	Serial, Mass, and Spree Killing	pp.103-116
	TH 9/21	Documentary: <i>Born to Kill? The DC Snipers</i>	
<b>5</b>	T 9/26	Group Project Introduction	
	TH 9/28	Violence in the Home, Part 1	Chapter 5
<b>6</b>	T 10/3	Violence in the Home, Part 2; <b>Quiz 2 due</b>	Chapter 5
	TH 10/5	Group Project Work Day; <b>DRP 1 due</b>	
<b>7</b>	T 10/10	<b>MIDTERM ONLINE</b>	No reading
	TH 10/12	Group Project Work Day	
<b>8</b>	T 10/17	Rape and Sexual Assault, Part 1	Chapter 6
	TH 10/19	Rape and Sexual Assault, Part 2	Chapter 6
<b>9</b>	T 10/24	Genocide; <b>Quiz 3 due</b>	pp. 319-334
	TH 10/26	In-Class Documentary	No reading
<b>10</b>	T 10/31	Gang Violence	pp. 219-225
	TH 11/2	Hate Crimes; <b>Quiz 4 due</b>	Chapter 8
<b>11</b>	T 11/7	Terrorism; <b>DRP 2 due</b>	Chapter 10
	TH 11/9	Costs of Violence and Violence Prevention; <b>Quiz 5 due</b>	Chapter 12
<b>12</b>	T 11/14	Violence Prevention	Chapter 12
	TH 11/16	No Class -- ASC	
<b>13</b>	T 11/21	Group Project Work Day	
	TH 11/23	No Class – Thanksgiving	
<b>14</b>	T 11/28	Group Presentations	
	TH 11/30	Group Presentations	
<b>15</b>	T 12/5	Group Presentations	
	TH 12/7	Group Presentations	

**Take-Home Final Exam Due Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 10:00am Eastern Time**