



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

SOC 396: Winter 2024

Violence in Society

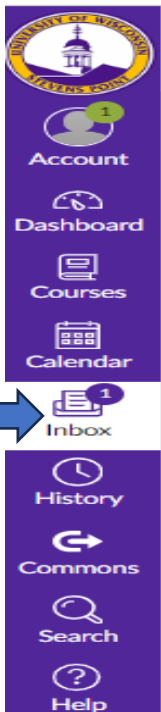
Asynchronous Online Class

Jan 2, 2024-Jan 19, 2024

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Zoom Virtual Office. Office hours for the week will be posted in the announcements every Monday at 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.

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 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 the 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.

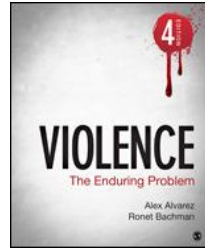
Technical Assistance. If you need technical assistance during the course or report a problem with Canvas, you can click the Help button near the bottom left of the Canvas navigation screen. From there, you have the following options:

- 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 is legally responsible for providing accommodations and program access as mandated by Section 54 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The University's philosophy is to provide what is mandated and convey its genuine concern for one's total well-being. If accommodations are needed, please get in touch with 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
<u>Discussions</u>	<u>30 (10 points)</u>
Tentative Total	330

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 directly quoting another person's published or unpublished work 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 accommodation 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. You will want to see the module for each day for more details on the daily expectations and the assignment. Please Note: Material posted on Canvas (films, news, articles, etc.) is intended to complement your textbook and is required and may be on the exams. Again, please see the module for each day on Canvas.

	date	Topic	Textbook Reading
Week One	DAY 1 1/2	Complete Canvas Orientation Quiz, Introduction to Course DEFINING VIOLENCE Chapter 1	Chapters 1
	DAY 2 1/3	WHY DO WE DO IT- Explanations for Violence	Chapter 2
	DAY 3 1/4	ASSAULT AND MURDER	Chapter 3
	DAY 4 1/5	Exam 1 is available and due Sunday night by 11:59 PM.	
Week two	DAY 5 1/8	SERIAL, MASS, AND SPREE KILLING	Chapter 4
	DAY 6 1/9	VIOLENCE IN THE HOME	Chapters 5
	DAY 7 1/10	RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT	Chapter 6
	Day 8 1/11	HATE CRIMES	Chapter 8
	Day 9 1/12	Exam 2 available- Due Sunday night by 11:59 PM	
	DAY 10 1/15	TERRORISM	Chapter 10
	DAY 11 1/16	GENOCIDE	Chapter 11
	DAY 12 1/17	TOWARD VIOLENCE PREVENTION	Chapter 12
	DAY 13 1/18	Exam 3 available- Due Sunday night by 11:59 PM	

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CHECK

CANVAS MODULES DAILY!!!