CRJS 5831 - Violence in America

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 41993,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Monica Merrill

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. Monica Merrill
Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Ph. D., Sociology, University of Akron

Master's, Sociology, University of Akron

Bachelor's, Justice Studies, Kent State
Bachelor's, Psychology, Kent State

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Course Description

5831. Violence in America. Analysis of violence in America including official and unofficial statistics, types and levels of violence, research findings, and profiles of offenders. Case analysis of domestic violence, juvenile violence, gangs, and other forms of violence. Prereq.: CRJS 3735. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Violence: An Enduring Problem	Alvarez and Bachman	ISBN- 9781071859196

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
10/19	Text Ch. 1 Text Ch. 2	Introduction Defining Violence Why We Do it	Syllabus Quiz- Due Wed. 10/21 DP 0 Introductions- Due Sun. 10/25 DP 1 Defining Violence- Due Sun. 10/25 A1 Crime Rates- Due Sun. 10/25 Quiz Ch. 1- Due Sun. 10/25 Quiz Ch. 2- Due Sun. 10/25 DP 0 Comments- Due Tue. 10/27 DP 1 Comments- Due Tue. 10/27
10/26	Text. Ch. 3 Text Ch. 4	Assault, Murder Serial, Mass, and Spree Killings	DP 2 Mass Shootings- Due Sun. 11/1 A2 Murder- Due Sun. 11/1 Quiz Ch. 3- Due Sun 11/1 Quiz Ch. 4- Due Sun. 11/1 DP 2 Comments- Due Tue. 11/3
11/2	Text Ch. 5	Violence in the Home	DP 3 Child Abuse- Due Sun. 11/8 A3 IPV- Due Sun. 11/8 Quiz Ch. 5- Due Sun. 11/8 MIDTERM- Due Sun. 11/8 DP 3 Comments- Due Tue. 11/10

11/9	Text Ch. 6 Text Ch. 7	Rape and Sexual Assault Street Violence	DP 4 Incels/Violence- Due Sun. 11/15 A4 Gang violence- Due Sun. 11/15 Quiz Ch. 6- Due Sun. 11/15 Quiz Ch. 7- Due Sun. 11/15 DP 4 Comments- Due Tue. 11/17
11/16	Text Ch. 8 Text Ch. 9	Hate Crimes Crowd Violence	DP 5 Hate Crimes- Due Sun. 11/22 A5 Crowd Violence- Due Sun. 11/22 Quiz Ch. 8- Due Sun. 11/22 Quiz Ch. 9- Due Sun. 11/22 DP 5 Comments- Due Tue. 11/24
11/23	Text Ch. 11 Text Ch. 12	Genocide Prevention	DP 6 Genocide- Due Sun. 11/29 A6 Prevention- Due Sun. 11/29 Quiz Ch. 11- Due Sun. 11/29 Quiz Ch. 12- Due Sun. 11/29 DP 6 Comments- Due Tue. 12/1
11/30		Wrap up	Final Project- Due Fri. 12/4 Final Exam -Due Sat. 12/5

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.