

CRJS 5831 - Violence in America

Summer 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 30962,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Monica Merrill

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

Associate Professor

Email: mmmerrill@ysu.edu

Office: Cushwa 2616

Office Phone: 330-941-7223

Preferred Contact Method: email

Communication Expectations:

I will make every effort to return emails within 48 hours and grades within one week.

How to Refer to me:

Dr. Merrill, Professor Merrill, Monica (she/hers)

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.

Analysis of violence in America, including official and unofficial statistics, types and levels of violence, research findings, and profiles of offenders. We will also examine the history of violence, theoretical perspectives explaining violence and specific types of violence.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
	Violence: An Enduring Problem (5 ed).	Alex Alvarez and Ronet Bachman	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
6/29	Introduction Defining Violence Why We Do it	Text- Ch. 1 Text- Ch. 2	Syllabus Quiz- Due Wed. 7/1 DP 0 Introductions- Due Sun. 7/5 DP 1 Defining Violence- Due Sun. 7/5 A1 Crime Rates- Due Sun. 7/5 Quiz Ch. 1- Due Sun. 7/5 Quiz Ch. 2- Due Sun. 7/5 DP 0 Comments- Due Tue. 7/7 DP 1 Comments- Due Tue. 7/7



7/6	Assault and Murder Serial, mass, and Spree Killing	Text- Ch. 3 Text- Ch. 4	DP 2 Mass Shootings- Due Sun. 7/12 A2 Murder- Due Sun. 7/12 Quiz Ch. 3- Due Sun 7/12 Quiz Ch. 4- Due Sun. 7/12 DP 2 Comments- Due Tue. 7/14
7/13	Violence in America	Text Ch. 5	DP 3 Child Abuse- Due Sun. 7/19 A3 IPV- Due Sun. 7/19 Quiz Ch. 5- Due Sun. 7/19 MIDTERM- Due Sun. 7/19 DP 3 Comments- Due Tue. 7/21
7/20	Rape and Sexual Assault Street Violence	Text Ch. 6 & Text Ch. 7	DP 4 Incels & Violence- Due Sun. 7/26 A4 Gang violence- Due Sun. 7/26 Quiz Ch. 6- Due Sun. 7/26 Quiz Ch. 7- Due Sun. 7/26 DP 4 Comments- Due Tue. 7/28
7/27	Hate Crimes Crowd Violence	Text Ch. 8 & Ch. 9	DP 5 Hate Crimes- Due Sun. 8/2 A5 Crowd Violence- Due Sun. 8/2 Quiz Ch. 8- Due Sun. 8/2 Quiz Ch. 9- Due Sun. 8/2 DP 5 Comments- Due Tue. 8/4
8/3	Genocide & Prevention	Text Ch. 11 & Ch. 12	DP 6 Genocide- Due Sun. 8/9 A6 Prevention- Due Sun. 8/9 Quiz Ch. 11- Due Sun. 8/9 Quiz Ch. 12- Due Sun. 8/9 DP 6 Comments- Due Tue. 8/11
8/10	Wrap-Up		Final Project- Due Fri. 8/14 Final Exam -Due Sat. 8/15

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.