

SOCIOLOGY OF VIOLENCE

SOCI 3360

Fall Semester, 2013

Online Course

Instructor: Michelle Emerson-Lewis

E-mail: Please use email in our WebCT Vista course to contact the instructor. If you have difficulties with WebCT Vista, you may use my personal email: Memerson25@gmail.com

Phone: (720) 226-5075 (Cell)

As your instructor, I am here to help you succeed. I can offer assistance through e-mail, by phone, or online in a chat space. Use WebCT mail to set up an appointment if you need help with an assignment or if you would like to talk about the course content.

- Responses to your work: Unless you are notified otherwise, grades and feedback will be posted within one week of the assignment deadline. In general, grades and feedback will appear in D2L.
- Responses to Student E-mails: I will respond to student e-mails within 48 hours M-F.

Course Description: This course examines the roots and consequences of violent behavior exhibited by individuals in our society. Topics covered include the social and cultural contexts that breed violence, society's influence on specific crimes, and human social behavior.

Course Objectives:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the causes of violent behavior in society.
2. Discuss social implications of violent behavior.
3. Offer policy ideas to combat violence in our society.

Course Requirements:

- Textbook: Ferguson, Christopher (Editor) 2010. *Violent Crime: Clinical & Social Implications*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN 978-1-4129-5993-3
- Online Readings
- Access to D2L and Word Processing Software

Evaluation: Your grade will be based on the following:

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|----------------------|-------------|
| • Exams | 40% |
| • Assignments | 30% |
| • <u>Discussions</u> | <u>30%</u> |
| Total | 100% |

Final grades will be determined based upon the following scale:

A (90+), B (80 - 89), C (70 - 79), D (60 - 69), F (<60)

Exams: You will have a midterm and a final. Your exams will consist of essay questions. Exams will be given online with a time limit of 3 hours from start to finish. Make-up exams will only be available with prior approval. Dates of the exams are listed on the Course Calendar.

Discussions: Students are required to post for each learning module to our D2L discussion board on topics posted. Students are also required to respond to other students' postings, as well. Late postings will not be accepted. Postings will be graded based on academic relevance and must display some analytical ability. Spelling and grammar count. Criteria for grading your discussions are at the end of the syllabus (Discussion Grading Rubric). Due Dates are listed on the Course Calendar.

Assignments: You will have assignments for each of the modules. Your assignments should be 2-3 pages in length. Citations of sources must be included. Assignment details are posted in D2L. Ten points will be deducted per calendar day for assignments submitted late. Criteria for grading your assignments are listed at the end of the syllabus (Assignment Grading Rubric).

Academic Integrity: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

Disruption of Campus Life Statement: It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment, which encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and/or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the Kennesaw State University Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the University disciplinary process.

Plagiarism and Cheating: No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit as part of a course (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged.

Student Support Services: Kennesaw State University welcomes all students, recognizing that variations of abilities contribute to a richly diverse campus life. The Student Development Center offers the following programs: Adult Learner Programs, Minority Student Retention Services, International Student Retention Services, Odyssey Peer Mentoring Program. Please visit the Student Development Center for additional information.

disAbled Student Support Services: A number of services are available to help students with disabilities with their academic work. In order to make arrangements for special services, students should visit the office and make an appointment to arrange an individual assistance plan. Students who wish to participate in an activity or program offered by the university and need accommodations should contact the office sponsoring the program at least five days prior to the program so that arrangements can be made. The course strives to meet all Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines and regulations. Please visit the disAbled Student Support Services website for additional information and obtain any necessary accommodations.

Writing Center: The Writing Center is more than a free service available to all members of the university community; it is a place where anyone who writes—those who love it, those who struggle with it, and everyone in between—can come for help in becoming a better writer. In fact, that is the goal of the Writing Center: to produce not just better writing but better writers. Please visit it at: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter/index.shtml>

Drop Date: The last day to drop without academic penalty is October 11.

Discussion Grading Rubric

Criteria	Exceptional	Good	Needs Improvement	No Submission
Frequency & Quantity	30 points	25 points	10 points	0 points
	3 or more posts 40 points	At least 2 posts 30 points	1 post total 20 points	No posts
Quality	Posts use course terms and concepts accurately, focus on the topic, and show critical thinking.	Majority of post uses course terms & concepts accurately, focus on the topic, & show critical thinking.	No course terms or concepts used or used inaccurately; not focused on topic; does not show critical thinking	0 points No submission
	30 points	20 points	10 points	
Community	Post acknowledge posts of others and expand the discussion using examples from reading, Web research, or personal experience as appropriate.	Majority of post acknowledge posts of others and expand the discussion using examples from reading, Web research, or personal experience as appropriate.	Posts do not acknowledge the contributions and ideas of class peers; post violates mutual respect policy	0 points No posts in response to classmates' postings.
Overall Score	Level 4 100 or more	Level 3 75 or more	Level 2 40 or more	Level 1 0 or more

Writing Assignments Rubric

Criteria	Needs Improvement	Good	Exceptional
Content & Development	20 points	30 points	40 points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content is incomplete Major points are not clear and/or persuasive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content is not comprehensive and/or persuasive Major points are addressed, but not well supported Research is inadequate or does not address assignment concepts Content is inconsistent with regard to purpose and clarity of thought 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content is comprehensive, accurate, and persuasive Major points are stated clearly and are well supported Research is adequate, timely, and addresses assignment concepts Content & purpose of the writing are clear
Organization & Structure	10 points	15 points	20 points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization & structure detract from the message of the writer Paragraph is disjointed and lack transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure of the paragraph is not easy to follow Paragraph transitions need improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure of the paragraph is clear & easy to follow
Format & Citations	5 points	10 points	20 points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper lacks many elements of correct formatting No citations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper follows most guidelines Paper is over/under word length Citations are not in correct format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper follows designated guidelines Paper is the appropriate length as required by the assignment Paper has proper citations
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	10 points	15 points	20 points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper contains numerous grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors Language uses jargon or conversational tone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper contains few grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors Language lacks clarity of includes the use of some jargon or conversational tone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules of grammar usage and punctuation are followed Spelling is correct Language is clear & precise Sentences display consistently strong varied structure