

# SOCIOLOGY OF VIOLENCE

## SOCI 3360

Fall Semester, 2016

Online Course

**Instructor:** Michelle Emerson-Lewis

**E-mail:** Please use email in our D2L course to contact the instructor. If you have difficulties with D2L, my school email is: [Memerson@kennesaw.edu](mailto:Memerson@kennesaw.edu).

**Phone:** (720) 226-5075 (Cell) – Texting is acceptable if you need an answer right away or if you have not heard back from an email. Be sure to include your name in your text message.

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 D2L 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. 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: Thornton, W.E., Voigt, L, and Harper, D.W. 2013. *Why Violence? Leading Questions Regarding the Conceptualization and Reality of Violence in Society*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press. ISBN 978-1-59460-867-4.
- Access to D2L and Word Processing Software.

**Evaluation:** Your grade will be based on the following:

- |                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| • Exams              | 30%         |
| • News Presentation  | 10%         |
| • Reflection papers  | 30%         |
| • <u>Discussions</u> | <u>30%</u>  |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>100%</b> |

Final grades will be determined based upon the following scale:

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

**Drop Date:** The last day to drop without academic penalty is October 5th.

**Exams:** You will have 3 exams during the semester, consisting of essay questions, True/False and Fill-in-the-blank. Essay answers should be 1-2 paragraphs (approximately 200 words or more). The time limit for the final is 4 hours from start to finish. Make-up exams will only be available with prior approval.

**News Presentations:** Violence occurs every day in our society. To relate current events to our topic of study, students will be required to present a comprehensive summary of major/headline news at the local, national **or** international levels. Details for this assignment and the grading rubric are included in the News Presentation Details in the Content Section. See Course Calendar for presentation and discussion due dates.

**Reflection Papers:** For each chapter of the textbook, students are required to write a reflection paper. **Minimum of 2 pages is required for your papers (not including cover page).** ASA or APA Format is required (12-point font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced) Ten points will be deducted per calendar day for papers submitted late. Be sure to address these 3 requirements:

- Requirement 1: Read what is assigned, then choose and describe the three most important aspects (concepts, issues, factual information, etc.) of the reading, justifying your choices. (3 paragraphs).
- Requirement 2: Identify two aspects of the reading you don't understand, and briefly discuss why these confusing aspects interfered with your general understanding of the reading. (2 paragraphs).
- Requirement 3: Pose a question to the text's author, the answer to which should go beyond the reading content and does not reflect the areas of confusion in requirement 2. The question should reflect your curiosity about the topic and reveal what you think are the implications or applications of the reading content. (1 paragraph).

Criteria for grading your reflection papers are in D2L (Reflection Paper Grading Rubric). **I will drop one reflection paper** at the end of the semester. If you miss one of the papers, that can be the one dropped. Due dates are listed on the Course Calendar.

**Discussions:** Students are required to post for each learning module to our D2L discussion board on the news presentations for that module. This post must be completed 3 days prior to the due date for the discussion to receive full credit. 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 in D2L (Discussion Grading Rubric). **I will drop one discussion grade** at the end of the semester. If you miss one of the discussions, that can be the one dropped. Due Dates are listed on the Course Calendar.

**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.

**Warning about the material:** This course covers some sensitive topics and may trigger feelings or issues for you. I encourage you to take advantage of campus resources. You can find out about services at: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/studentsuccessservices/cps/services.php>.

**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>