

SOC 375-SCHOOL VIOLENCE

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Marianna King
E-mail: marianna_king@adams.edu
Phone: 719/852-2698
Address: 219 Dunham Street
Monte Vista, CO 81144

COURSE DELIVERY:

Print-Based Correspondence Course

CREDIT HOURS:

Three Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES:

Completion of SOC 201 with a *minimum grade of C*; or, Permission of Instructor

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course investigates the problem of school violence within the context of “the culture of violence,” a term used by international social scientists for the past four decades to describe the United States. Because violence and school violence are situated in the framework of larger historical, political, economic, cultural and social influences, the discipline of sociology is well suited to investigate the problem while, at the same time, acknowledging the development of the self within this framework. This course will broaden the student’s understanding of violence by learning to recognize and take into account these larger influences from a sociological perspective.

This course will analyze and facilitate the student’s understanding of the root cause of the “culture of violence” and of school violence. This will lead to more clarity about the nature of school violence, its dynamics, and how to best alleviate and prevent the problem.

The course facilitates critical thinking, which the student will use to assess the causes of violence, school violence, as well as the effectiveness of current school violence prevention programs. With additional resources provided by the course, the student will be able to create and evaluate an effective school violence prevention program.

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STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will:

- Understand the “culture of violence”
- Assess the causes of violence and school violence
- Apply a critical assessment of current approaches in violence prevention
- Determine how to create an effective school violence prevention program
- Develop effective writing skills

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The course requirements consist of 12 writing assignments, a midterm and a final exam. The reading, writing and fieldwork assignments are designed to help prepare you for the exams. Some of the written assignments will ask you to incorporate your findings from fieldwork assignments that relate to that lesson. Each writing assignment will indicate whether fieldwork is to be incorporated into that writing assignment.

Both exams are closed book and closed notebook. The one-hour midterm should be requested when you have completed Writing Assignments 1-5 in the study guide. The midterm exam question is:

“What is the ‘culture of violence,’ and how is violence being addressed programmatically?”

The two-hour final exam should be requested after you complete Lesson 16. The exam will ask you to create an effective school violence prevention program. The final exam question is:

“Create an effective school violence prevention program, including an outline of how you would evaluate the program.”

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Materials:

Pedagogy of the Oppressed, by Paulo Freire. 1989 (1971). The Continuum Publishing Company.

Remote Control Childhood? Combating the Hazards of Media Culture, by Diane E. Levin. National Association for the Education of Young Children. 1998.

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“Proceedings from the Educational Forum on Adolescent Health: Youth Bullying.” American Medical Association. May 3, 2002. www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/upload/mm/39/youthbullying.pdf

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, University of Colorado, Boulder. Model Blueprint Programs. 2001. www.colorado.edu/cspv

Other reading assignments as specified in the Lessons.

Recommended Materials:

Physician’s Guide to Media Violence. American Medical Association. 1996

Helping Young Children Understand Peace, War and the Nuclear Threat, by Nancy Carlsson-Paige. (Available from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).)

Who’s Calling the Shots? How to Respond Effectively to Children’s Fascination with War Play and War Toys, by Nancy Carlsson-Paige and Diane E. Levin. 1990.

The War Play Dilemma: Balancing Needs and Values in the Early Childhood Classroom. New York: Teachers College Press, by Diane E. Levin. 1994.

Education for a Critical Consciousness, by Paulo Freire. 1990. The Continuum Publishing Company.

Corporate Violence, edited by Stuart Hill. 1988. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

Teaching Young Children in Violent Times: Building a Peace able Classroom, by Nancy Carlsson-Paige. (Available from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.)

“A Brief for Practitioners on Turning Around Low-Performing Schools: Implications at the School, District and State Levels,” by Naomi G. Housman and Monica R. Martinez. The National Clearinghouse for Comprehensive School Reform.

Blaming the Victim, by Bill Ryan

“The Asset Approach: Giving Kids What They Need to Succeed.” Search Institute. Minneapolis, Minnesota. 1997.

Resources:

American Medical Association, Child and Adolescent Health. Bullying Resource page. www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/categroy/7830.html

Bureau of Justice Statistics, www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/ and www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract

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Center on Media and Child Health, Children's Hospital, Boston, Harvard Medical School. (www.cmch.tv). Mission is to help children use media in safe and healthy ways. 'Smart searches' are available for research.

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (University of Colorado). CSPV Information House is a central location through which violence-related information is collected, evaluated, stored and disseminated. The Information House serves the public by providing state-of-the-art bibliographies. Free customized topical searches from all CSPV are available online. www.colorado.edu/cspv

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, at 1-800-638-8736, produces and distributes the agency's publications and prepares customized responses to information requests.

"Bowling for Columbine," by Roger Moore. The Cannes award-winning video about the Columbine tragedy.

National Association of Mediation Educators. Curriculum and Cassette Tape: "Songs for Peacemakers" and "Songs for Peace." 1-800-645-3739 or 516/223-4666.

National School Safety Center. "School Safety," a quarterly publication that covers violence in schools and other safety concerns. Westlake Village, California. 805/ 373-9977

U.S. Department of Education. Searchable database of publications about safe and drug-free schools is available online at www.ed.gov/pubs/pubdb.html. For further information About Safe and Drug-Free Schools, see www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS

U.S. Department of Education. www.ed.gov. Click on Performance Reports, which reports on the performance and accountability of education programs.

U. S. Department of Justice. National Criminal Justice Research Service The NCJRS staff will assist you in your research by obtaining publications for you. See www.NCJRS.org

Other resources are contained in the Lessons, below.

References:

Altheide, Roger and David Snow. Media Reality. Boston: Beacon Press. 1976.

American Academy of Pediatrics. Abstract, "Media Violence." Volume 108. No. 5. 2001.

American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Wellesley College Center for Research on Women. How Schools Shortchange Girls. Washington, D.C.: AAUW Education Foundation. 1992.

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American Humane Society, Children's Division. www.americanhumansociety. 2006.

American Medical Association. "Educational forum on Adolescent Health: Youth Bullying." May 3, 2002. www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/39/youthbullying.pdf

Anderson, Craig. Interview, "The Culture of Violence," KRZA Public Radio Station, Alamosa, Colorado. August 21, 2006.

Anderson, Daniel R. "A Neuroscience of Media and Children?" Journal of Children and Media. Volume 1, No. 1. 2007.

Anderson, Daniel R., Jennings Bryant, John P. Murray, Michael Rich, Michael J. Rivkin, and Dolf Zillmann. "Brain Imaging – An Introduction to a New Approach to Studying Media Processes and Effects." Media Psychology. Volume 8. 2006.

Apuzzo, Matt and Sharon Cohen. (Associated Press) "Va.Tech Shooter a Textbook Case." The Pueblo Chieftain newspaper. April 20, 2007.

Arnette, June L., and Marjorie C. Walsleben. "Combating Fear and Restoring Safety in Schools." Juvenile Justice Bulletin. U.S. Department of Justice, Office Of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. April 1998.

Bell, Griffin B. and William J. Bennett, "Preventing Crime, Saving Children: Monitoring, Mentoring and Ministering." Second Report of the Council on Crime in America. Center for Civic Innovation of the Manhattan Institute. February 1997.

Best, Raphaela. We've All Got Scars: What Boys and Girls Learn in Elementary School. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 2003.

Browning, Katharine and David Huizinga. "Highlights of Findings from the Denver Youth Survey." OJJDP Fact Sheet (106). U.S. Department of Justice. April 1999.

Center on Media and Child Health, Harvard Medical School. (www.cmch.tv).

Cantor, Joanne (see www.ccmch.tv). 2006.

Cantor, Joanne Mommy, I'm Scared: How TV and Movies Frighten Children and What We Can Do to Protect Them. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company 1998.

Council on Crime in America. Preventing Crime, Saving Children: Monitoring, Mentoring, and Ministering. (Second Report of the Council on Crime in America). Center for Civic Innovation of the Manhattan Institute. 2001.

Edwards, Betty. Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain. New York: St. Martin's Press. 1979.

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Ferrante, Joan. Sociology: A Global Perspective (Second Edition). Wadsworth Publishing Company. California: Belmont. 1995.

Finkelhor, David and Richard Ormrod. "Homicides of Children and Youth." Juvenile Justice Bulletin. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. October 2001.

Fischio, Tonya. "Mean Girls Start in Preschool, BYU Study Shows." Brigham Young University News. byunews.byu.edu/archive05-May-mean.aspx. June 21, 2005.

Fox, James Alan. "The Impending Crime Wave Can Be Averted." Unpublished paper, Northeastern University. July 18, 1996.

Fox, Matthew. Creation Spirituality: Liberating Gifts for the Peoples of the Earth. San Francisco, CA: Harper. 1991.

Gifford, Rob. "U.S. on List of UNICEF's Worst Countries for Kids." NPR (National Public Radio). www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyID=7407245, 2007.

Hanson, Katherine and Anne McAuliffe. "Gender and Violence: Implications for Peaceful Schools." The Fourth R (The Newsletter of the National Association for Mediation in Education). Volume 52. August/September 1994.

Hawkins, J. David., Todd. I. Herrenkohl, David P. Farrington, Devon Brewer, Richard F. Catalano, Tracy W. Harachi, and Lynn Cothorn. "Predictors of Youth Violence." Juvenile Justice Bulletin. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. April 2000.

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Kachur, Steven P., G.M. Stennies, Kelley E. Power, and Stephen Modzeleski, "School-Associated Violent Death in the United States." Journal of the American Medical Association. Volume 275. No. 22. 2001.

Kelley, Barbara Tatem, David Huizinga, Terence P. Thornberry, and Rolf Loeber. "Epidemiology of Serious Violence." Juvenile Justice Bulletin. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice. June 1997.

Kenney, Dennis. "Crime in the Schools: A Problem-Solving Approach." National Institute of Justice Research Preview. National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. August 1998.

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- Lungren, Daniel E. "Violence Prevention: A Vision of Hope." Executive Summary of the California Attorney General's Policy Council on Violence Prevention." August 2005.
- Metropolitan Life Insurance. "The Metropolitan Life Survey of the American Teacher: Violence in America's Public Schools." New York. 1993.
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- Murray, John P. "TV Violence and Children." Psychiatric Times. Volume 18. No. 10. 2001.
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- The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. "The Daily Parent: A Newsletter for Working Parents," Child Care Aware. Volume 7 2006.
- National Commission on Excellence in Education, A Nation at Risk, 1983.
- National Television Study. Volume 1. CA: Sage Publishing. 1996.
- Newswise. "Increase in Severe Poverty Has Serious Implications for Public Health." Virginia Commonwealth University. August 21, 2006.
(www.newswise.com/pp/articles/view/522916)
- New York Times. NBC News Special. July 1994.
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Shure, Myrna B. "Preventing Violence the Problem-Solving Way." Juvenile Justice Bulletin. (A publication of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. April 1999.

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U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 2002. 2003.

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Weller, Robert. "Columbine: Questions Still Remain." (Associated Press) The Pueblo Chieftain newspaper. April 20, 2007.

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GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

12 Written Assignments (Including Fieldwork Assignments) x 30 points each	360	points
Mid-Term Exam	280	points
Final Exam	<u>360</u>	<u>points</u>
Total Points	1000	points

Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

ADA STATEMENT:

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.