

- I. Course Title:** **SPRb1130 – Human Behavior and the Violence**
Fall 2021
Wednesday 14.00-15.40 (in class)
- Course Credit:** 5 Semester Credits
- Instructor:** Ande Nesmith (PhD), R.M.S.Kumara, (MA, MPhil, Ph.D. Student)
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II. REQUIRED TEXTS

Alvarez, A. & Bachman, R. (2017). *Violence: The Enduring Problem*. 4th Ed. Sage Publications.

Noah, T. (2016). *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*. Spiegel & Grau.

Both textbooks are available in electronic sources of the FSS MU.

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to increase the knowledge and understanding of cultural, racial, and interpersonal violence and develop a commitment to promoting a violence free, peaceful society. The content includes exploration of the extent, contributing factors, effects of various types of violence, and strategies for intervention and prevention. Special emphasis is given to the integration of cultural and social diversity (race, ethnicity, social/economic class, gender, age, and sexual orientation), to prevention, and to promotion of social justice.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To identify, define and analyze various types of violence including cultural, racial, and interpersonal violence.
2. To explore theoretical approaches to understanding violence.
3. To examine the social construction of and cultural/institutional sanctions for violence.
4. To understand the effects of violence, including psychological, physical, social, economic and political.
5. To acknowledge values and assumptions regarding violence.
6. To examine culturally and historically sensitive approaches to dealing with survivors and perpetrators of violence, with emphasis on prevention.
7. To identify the contributions of various disciplines such as nursing, public health, medicine, law, law enforcement, education and social work to violence prevention.
8. To understand the critical role of social change in eliminating violence.
9. To strengthen a personal commitment to creating a violent free, peaceful society through activism.

V. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Participation (in-person)

Learning activities for this class may include: class discussions, case analysis, role-play exercises, multi-media presentations, small group exercises, written assignments, lectures, invited lecturers.

Your thoughtful participation is essential both for your own learning and that of your classmates. Naturally, if you miss a class, your contributions will be missed as well. Being on time and attending regularly are extremely important aspects of social work professionalism. Furthermore, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to learn from the readings alone. Coming prepared for the class includes staying abreast of the reading and being prepared to participate in classroom activities.

It is acknowledged that individual beliefs about the treatment and rights of those who perpetrate violence and their victims is a controversial and, at times, emotional subject. In addition, this course will delve into areas of study and discussion that may cause discomfort for students. The classroom environment, while intellectually challenging, shall also be regarded as an environment where students can freely and safely express ideas and opinions. Each student (and the instructor) has developed personal philosophies, opinions, and perhaps biases relating to the topic areas we will be investigating this semester. Students are encouraged to explore the content of this course within the context of their own experiences and share those experiences with other students in the class.

Attendance. It is expected that you attend all scheduled class sessions

Participation/Attendance Points

Active participation in class: 20 points

VI. Learning Environment

Ethics, Integrity, and Professional Behavior: Please use high professional and ethical standards both in your interactions with colleagues and in your written work. Papers for this class are to be original work rather than a recycled version of work from another class. Handing in work other than your own personal work (plagiarism) will result in an automatic failing grade for that assignment. While it is acceptable to study and work with colleagues in preparing assignments, papers must be written independently and be your own work.

Plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when one claims or submits as their own original work, the research, ideas, or writings of another without acknowledging and explicitly identifying the source, regardless of the quantity of material used. Plagiarism of any degree in a paper will *minimally* result in a zero for the assignment and report of academic dishonesty to your advisor and the university administration.

Papers for this class are to be original work rather than a recycled version of work from another class. Handing in work other than your own or recycled personal work will result in an automatic failing grade. While it is acceptable to study and work with colleagues in preparing assignments, papers must be written independently and be your own work. As such, all papers will be submitted using plagiarism assessment software.

Teaching Methods: This course will involve a variety of teaching methods including lectures, group exercises, papers, class discussions, and, if safe to do so, field trips to local organizations or programs.

Respect for Differences: Although we may not all agree about our interpretations of particular issues, we can agree that open dialogue carried on in a respectful manner is essential to the search for knowledge and understanding. Let us pledge to listen and not withdraw from difficult discussions, listen respectfully, and disagree with courtesy.

VII. Student Evaluation and Grading

Course requirements and assignments:

Active participation in class	20%
Violence topic presentation (group)	30%
Writing Academic Essay	50%

A. Summary of Assignments.

Below is a brief description of each assignment. Each assignment will be discussed in detail in class with supporting documents posted on the course website. Please note that all written assignments are typed, double-spaced, and turned in through Canvas.

Attendance and Participation (15 points). This class is a learning community; a group of people engaged for the purpose of learning. Your participation is valued and central to your personal learning and the quality of learning in the class as a whole. So, students must actively involve in-class activities; discussions, reading articles/books/chapters, questioning etc.

Violence Topic Research Paper (50 points; 10-12 pgs.)

The purpose of this research paper is to synthesize the range of subject matter regarding violence that is addressed throughout the course as applied to a particular relevant topic of your choosing. You will investigate an issue related to violence, its source, its impact and strategies that might be employed to address the problem(s), and how this plays out in at least two different locations globally. Possible subjects might include but are not limited to: gender violence, workplace violence, racism, genocide, sex trafficking, self-violence etc.

VIII. Evaluation and Grading: The following scale is used to determine final grades.

A	(85-100%)
B	(75-84%)
C	(65-74%)
D	(55-64%)
E	(Below 55%)

IX. Course topic, Fall 2020

Topic	Readings
Defining violence	
Violence and U.S. Culture	Alvarez & Bachman: Ch. 1 <i>As American as Apple Pie</i>
Theoretical Explanations of Violence	Alvarez & Bachman ch. 2 pp. 35-53 <i>Ethological & Biological Explanations of Violence</i>
Theoretical Explanations of Violence	Alvarez & Bachman ch. 2 pp. 53-68 <i>Sociological Explanations of Violence</i>
Gun violence and Murder	Alvarez & Bachman: Ch. 3 pp. 70-85 <i>Guns and Violence</i> Ch. 4. <i>Assault & Murder</i>
Self-violence: suicide and self-harm	World Health Organization. (2019). <i>Suicide in the World; the Global Health Estimates</i> , pp. 6-18
Child abuse	Alvarez & Bachman ch. 5 pp. 170-175 <i>Child Abuse</i>
Gender Violence; sex trafficking; prostitution	Alvarez & Bachman ch. 5 pp. 145-169 <i>Violence in the Home</i> <i>Half the Sky</i> documentary, (1st hour of part 1, in class)
Sexual Violence: Sexual assault, Intimate Partner Violence, DV: Guest speaker Nora Smyth	Rothenberg Part IV: ch. 13 <i>Sex Crimes on Campus</i> Smyth at 4:30
Sexual Violence: Sexual assault	Alvarez & Bachman ch. 6 pp. 181-193 <i>Rape & Sexual Assault</i> <i>Half the Sky</i> 2 nd half of part 1 (in class).
Violence and Race: Crowd violence, lynching, race riots	Alvarez & Bachman: ch. 7 pp. 238-247 <i>Hate Crimes</i> ch. 8 <i>Crowd Violence</i>
Oppression based on gender and ethnicity	Half the Sky TBD Rothenberg Part VI ch. 1 <i>Civilize them with a Stick</i>
Terrorism and Genocide	Alvarez & Bachman ch. 9 <i>Terrorism</i>
Mass Media and Violence	Rothenberg Part VIII ch. 4 <i>Media Magic: Making Class Invisible</i> Alvarez & Bachman ch. 3 pp.98-104 <i>The Media & Violence</i>
Effective violence prevention / research	Alvarez & Bachman ch. 11 <i>Toward Violence Prevention</i>
Paper Due	Dec. 30 th