SOC 375-SCHOOL VIOLENCE

SYLLABUS

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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:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use Section Number: 1017 to order books from Bookstore site.
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Required Materials:


Other reading assignments as specified in the Lessons.

Recommended Materials:


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).)


Teaching Young Children in Violent Times: Building a Peaceable 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

Resources:


Center on Media and Child Health, Children’s Hospital, Boston, Harvard Medical School. ([www.cmch.tv](http://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](http://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.


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 Justice. National Criminal Justice Research Service The NCJRS staff will assist you in your research by obtaining publications for you. See [www.NCJRS.org](http://www.NCJRS.org)

Other resources are contained in the Lessons, below.

References:

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


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 360 points
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.