

Dr. J. Adler
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Fall, 2021

211 Keene-Flint Hall
Office hours: Tues. 11:30-
12:30; Thurs. 7:30-9:30;
and by appointment

AMH 4316: THE HISTORY OF VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

Texts:

Roger Lane, *Murder in America*
David T. Courtwright, *Violent Land*
James McGovern, *Anatomy of a Lynching*
Alfred Brophy, *Reconstructing the Dreamland*
Eric Schneider, *Vampires, Dragons, and Egyptian Kings*
Fox Butterfield, *All God's Children*

Course Requirements:

AMH 4316 will explore the history of violent behavior, particularly violent crime, in America. A midterm examination, a short research paper, and an end-of-semester examination will be required. The midterm examination, which will be given on October 7, will be worth 25 percent of your grade, and the research paper, which will be due on November 18 (at the beginning of class and in hard copy), will be four pages in length and will be worth 25 percent of the course grade. An additional 25 percent of your grade will be based on attendance, which is mandatory, and class participation. The end-of-semester examination will be given on December 7 (at 8:30 a.m.) and will be worth 25 percent of your grade. Students cannot pass this course unless they complete both examinations and submit the required paper, and there will be no make-up examinations, except in cases of medical emergencies. This course will employ UF's grading scale (A=4.0; A-=3.67; B+=3.33; B=3.0; B-=2.67; C+=2.33; C=2.0; C-=1.67; D+=1.33; D=1.0; D-=0.67; E=0.0). Cell phones should not be used during class, and laptop computers should be used only for note taking. Anyone requiring special classroom accommodations must register with the Dean of Students Office and discuss his or her particular needs with me during the first three weeks of the semester. Students must conform to the university's honesty policy regarding cheating and the use of copyrighted materials, which can be reviewed at www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/. Finally, students are expected to provide professional feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and the course-evaluation results will be available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Lectures and Reading Assignments:

1. Aug. 24, 26 The Neurophysiology of Human Aggression
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapter 1
2. Aug. 31, Sept. 2 Theoretical Perspectives on Violence and Interpersonal Conflict
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapters 2-3

3. Sept. 7, 9 Homicide in Early America
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapters 1-2
4. Sept. 14, 16 Race, Honor, and Violence in the Old South
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 3
5. Sept. 21, 23 Brawling and Rioting in the Industrial City
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 4
6. Sept. 28, 30 Bloodsports
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapters 4-9
7. Oct. 5 Racial Violence in the South
Reading Assignment: McGovern, *Anatomy of a Lynching*
- Oct. 7 Mid-semester examination
8. Oct. 12, 14 Violent Death and Industrial Society
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 5
9. Oct. 19, 21 Social Conflict in the Early Twentieth-Century City
Reading Assignment: Brophy, *Reconstructing the Homeland*
10. Oct. 26, 28 Racism, Xenophobia, and Violence in the 1920s
No Reading Assignment
11. Nov. 2, 4 Murder and the Great Depression
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 6
12. Nov. 9 An Urban Crisis
Reading Assignment: Schneider, *Vampires, Dragons, and Egyptian Kings*
13. Nov. 16, 18 Race and the City
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapters 7-8
14. Nov. 23 Urban Crime in the Late Twentieth-Century City
Reading Assignment: Butterfield, *All God's Children*
15. Nov. 30, Dec. 2 Violence in Twenty-First-Century America
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 9; Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapters 10-12, Conclusion
16. Dec. 7 End-of-Semester Examination
No Reading Assignment