

Dr. J. Adler  
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Spring 2023

Zoom office hours:  
Wed. 8:30-9:25; Fri.  
10:30-11:30; & by appoint.

## **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*  
Margaret Burnham, *By Hands Now Known*  
Eric Schneider, *Vampires, Dragons, and Egyptian Kings*  
Fox Butterfield, *All God's Children*

### Course Requirements:

AMH 4316, which will be taught via Zoom, will explore the history of violent behavior, particularly violent crime, in America. A mid-semester take-home examination, a short research paper, and an end-of-semester take-home examination will be required. The mid-semester take-home examination will be distributed on March 2 (and due on March 3) and will be worth 25 percent of your course grade, and the research paper, due on April 14 (at the start of class), will be four pages in length and worth 25 percent of your grade. In addition, 25 percent of your course grade will be based on attendance, which is required, class participation, and a weekly assignment, which will entail a brief essay on a topic posted on Canvas during Friday classes and due at the end of the hour, beginning on February 3. To receive credit for attendance, students must participate in the Zoom class meetings, must keep the video feed enabled during class, and must submit the weekly assignments. (If computer problems or other challenges arise or pose particular difficulties for you, please discuss the issue with me at the start of the semester.) The end-of-semester take-home examination will be distributed on April 25 (and due on April 26) and will also 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 or extensions, 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). Anyone requiring special 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/](http://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.a.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and the course-evaluation results will be available at <https://gatorevals.a.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### Zoom Links and Passcodes:

AMH 4316 Mondays: 917 0318 7622 (class meeting); 343 668 (passcode); 9:35-10:25  
AMH 4316 Wednesdays: 942 9516 8549 (class meeting); 178 940 (passcode); 9:35-10:25

AMH 4316 Fridays: 930 4958 1554 (class meeting); 282 272 (passcode); 9:35-10:25  
Office hour on Wednesdays: 964 5260 7982; 002 598 (passcode); 8:30-9:25  
Office hour on Fridays: 987 8467 6864; 051 168 (passcode); 10:30-11:30

Lecture/Zoom Schedule and Reading Assignments:

1. Jan. 9, 11, 13            The Neurophysiology of Human Aggression  
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapter 1
2. Jan. 18, 20            Theoretical Perspectives on Violence and Interpersonal Conflict  
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapters 2-3
3. Jan. 23, 25, 27        Homicide in Colonial America  
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapters 1-2
4. Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 3      Race and Honor in the Old South  
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 3
5. Feb. 6, 8, 10          Class and Violence in the Mid-Nineteenth-Century City  
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 4
6. Feb. 13, 15, 17        Bloodsports  
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapters 4-9
7. Feb. 20, 22, 24        Vigilantism and Racial Murder in the New South  
Reading Assignment: McGovern, *Anatomy of a Lynching*
8. Feb. 27, Mar. 1        Violent Death and Industrial Society  
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 5
- Mar. 3                    Mid-Semester examination (no class meeting)
9. Mar. 6, 8, 10          Crime in the Early Twentieth-Century City  
No Reading Assignment
10. Mar. 13, 15, 17       Spring Break (no class meetings)  
No Reading Assignment
11. Mar 20, 22, 24        Racism, Policing, and Popular Justice in the 1920s  
Reading Assignment: Burnham, *By Hands Now Known*
12. Mar. 27, 29, 31       Murder and the Great Depression  
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 6
13. Apr. 3, 5, 7          An Urban Crisis  
Reading Assignment: Schneider, *Vampires, Dragons, & Egyptian Kings*

14. Apr. 10, 12, 14      Race and the City  
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapters 7-8
15. Apr. 17, 19, 21      Homicide, Suicide, and Guns in the Late Twentieth-Century City  
Reading Assignment: Butterfield, *All God's Children*
15. Apr. 24                Violence and Reactionary Populism in Twenty-First-Century America  
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 9; Courtwright,  
*Violent Land*, chapters 10-12, Conclusion
16. Apr. 26                End-of-Semester Examination (no class meeting)  
No Reading Assignment