

Dr. J. Adler
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Spring 2024

Zoom office hours:
Tues, 11:40-12:30; Thurs,
8:30-9:25 & 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*
Linda Gordon, *The Second Coming of the KKK*
Margaret Burnham, *By Hands Now Known*
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 February 28 (and due on February 29) and will be worth 25 percent of your course grade, and the research paper, due on April 11 (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 January 30. 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 22 (and due on April 23) 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/. 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/>.

Zoom Links and Passcodes:

Tuesday classes: 966 9385 4454; passcode 264 441
Thursday classes: 939 7452 5830; passcode 142 537

Office hour on Tuesdays (11:40-12:30): 998 9264 9316; passcode 075 555
Office hour on Thursdays (8:30-9:25): 937 4148 8927; passcode 440 180

Lecture/Zoom Schedule and Reading Assignments:

1. Jan. 9, 11 The Neurophysiology of Human Aggression
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapter 1
2. Jan. 16, 18 Theoretical Perspectives on Violence and Interpersonal Conflict
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapters 2-3
3. Jan. 23, 25 Homicide in Colonial America
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapters 1-2
4. Jan. 30, Feb. 1 Race and Honor in the Old South
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 3
5. Feb. 6, 8 Plebeian Violence in the Mid-Nineteenth-Century City
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 4
6. Feb. 13, 15 Bloodsports
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapters 4-9
7. Feb. 20, 22 Vigilantism and Racial Murder in the New South
Reading Assignment: McGovern, *Anatomy of a Lynching*
8. Feb. 27 Violent Death and Industrial Society
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 5
- Feb. 29 Mid-Semester examination (no class meeting)
9. Mar. 5, 7 Crime and Culture in the Early Twentieth Century
Reading Assignment: Gordon, *The Second Coming of the KKK*
10. Mar. 12, 14 Spring Break (no class meetings)
No Reading Assignment
11. Mar 19, 21 Racism, Policing, and Popular Justice in the 1920s
Reading Assignment: Burnham, *By Hands Now Known*
12. Mar. 26, 28 Murder and the Great Depression
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 6
13. Apr. 2, 4 An Urban Crisis
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapters 7-8
14. Apr. 9, 11 Race and the City

Reading Assignment: Butterfield, *All God's Children*

15. Apr. 16, 18

Violence, Guns, & Reactionary Populism in the Twenty-First Century
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapters 10-12,
Conclusion

16. Apr. 23

End-of-Semester Examination (no class meeting)
No Reading Assignment