

Dr. J. Adler
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Fall, 2025

Zoom office hours:
Thursday, 9-00-11:00 &
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*
Linda Gordon, *The Second Coming of the KKK*
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, an end-of-semester take-home examination, and weekly assignments will be required. The mid-semester examination will be distributed on October 9 (and due on October 10) and will be worth 33 percent of your course grade. Weekly assignments will be worth 33 percent of your grade. The assignments will entail a brief essay on a topic posted on Canvas assignments, will be due by 11:00 a.m. on Fridays of weeks 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, and will be required. The end-of-semester examination will be distributed on December 2 (and due on December 3) and will also be worth 33 percent of your grade. Students cannot pass this course unless they complete both examinations and submit at least seven of the weekly assignments. 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). (Do not rely on the Canvas final grade calculation.) 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 conduct policy regarding cheating and the use of copyrighted materials, which can be reviewed at <https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>. 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 giving this feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and course-evaluation results will be available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Zoom Links and Passcodes:

Office hours on Thursdays (9:00-11:00); Zoom Link: 912 3575 1949; Passcode: 394176

Lecture Schedule, Zoom Links, and Reading Assignments:

1. Aug. 21-22 The Neurophysiology of Aggression
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapter 1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/YIUAWAK9q1jUmQnWOq4GFBC-WhNsjr6Zix7tBJS1Nh5B2ShkVQR53sVV-pI5y9-o.fjoUnT6ak50_O4Ty

2. Aug. 25-29 Theoretical Perspectives on Violence and Interpersonal Conflict
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapters 2-3

2-1

<https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/cMC9sjysMuWV-QsKbMEpu0Qm8yHGYRowTj7QqPJ0mE7Go2AEqf7elHf0VY9I05CK.WigfsqhNWtBQaTQA>

2-2

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/pjtNWv4FoeVSLDObkMskYeW408nG8Y-1q9oDCuwnL_wsm9tHh3Qo_WFmiSBtRsMX.NFjqiyq2ufG66O-w

3. Sept. 2-5 Murder in Colonial America
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapters 1-2

3-1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/DYGMHVIsK6s8GP3IT9JEMAtvwyIh9mvPmJRCuyBgKMQOZLgiQHEivVJ_9XySj71H.OJL0A-wdzPILc55K

3-2

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4. Sept 8-12 Race and Honor in the Old South
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 3

4-1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/JDFkBAJGraU9zQ99sbnJIJ11JZVA7M5HB67TEat6blFg1bcVO38ic_PJnlLRshsp.niAgv175vIcpitho

4-2

<https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/j1WGdOQ6c9T1VXiJgiMEUIILRR0Y1NtD3cMoOGXrnuTtCboRNhWp9X1njpUGT7kl.MaYX-T6U47lcazn->

5. Sept. 15-19 Plebeian Violence in the Mid-Nineteenth-Century City
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 4

5-1

<https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/xmwyiY1BQ9FwIzElED284kzmfS1S7-iEeo5KmlzmQFEXOB5IHfNFJuCJaFxB1Yh.4wPSw6BhJxwgYmwU>

5-2

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6. Sept. 22-26 Bloodsports
Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapters 4-9

6-1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/zXflGDnICP4WBvGP_mc9EC-ttZxBQL-8ZI5F_b193LokEu-6wuSpjvvpKVbPEhfq.YrsnUx7Xt1KkuB3b

6-2

<https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/pElScGwQkV1-zWYJXDXXPOTcgtI1mg4j-olmPybWCp2Zbc2GIEKOBuEJvtwwles.pM7hYWH9xt7OiXFK>

7. Sept. 29-Oct. 3 Violent Death and Industrial Society
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 5

7-1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/j6Kw7EsOgW2krHIPNWfgZHvHPWj-RN8776N5UG2glfGils8acwTgUQI0zrBBj4jx.w_yPMaXyistDVIItq

7-2

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8. Oct. 6-10 Vigilantism and Racial Murder in the New South
Reading Assignment: McGovern, *Anatomy of a Lynching*

Oct. 9 Mid-Semester examination

8-1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/D09cRvKF0pLK8TMZaNP24XrBbi3f50_fJxwK2OJc8MoOHINn6sfc6NVRnNVqOpQd.NebHnOpV8_V3fPKQ

8-2

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9. Oct. 13-17 Crime and Culture in the Early Twentieth Century
Reading Assignment: Gordon, *The Second Coming of the KKK*, chapters 1-5

9-1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/rcKhsx7JEyBhK97ANvfMEbbRXTR5AAO2-a9BH7ucbkgU1WV31RkAQPkNMbr9xe9p.xtJzwcHdi_po8bPi

9-2

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10. Oct. 20-24 Race and Popular Justice in the 1920s
Reading Assignment: Gordon, *The Second Coming of the KKK*, chapters 6-11

10-1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/NsFR6LzxGg6g2AxCnx3Rqvx1ehXy0azXkQUtffspeyBh1FG4aKb8z2oj7Hps3A2I.aFfGm_Zt1LFqtN0g

10-2

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11. Oct. 27-31 Murder and the Great Depression
Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapter 6

11-1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/IINhF_9ONCp1auJ98unB7q1MZSI8t0zLUwHLYaef-B52R-s6Mfn6OHYD4CvsV3M2.uZYRgMBB_Z-1adh

11-2

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12. Nov. 3-7

An Urban Crisis

Reading Assignment: Lane, *Murder in America*, chapters 7-8; Schneider, *Vampires, Dragons, and Egyptian Kings*

12-1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/uF5nxNHpMY8hX0kuQLIg17h3yKafyg0bnNaUPI0ot6rxudF7abQOwDXfl-SP-Zg.H0U_JwQDrI8y6pmD

12-2

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13. Nov. 10-14

Race and the City

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

13-1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/uwoGA6RsO23AY-An0UXrCjwOVXqY7PUARpm2_ymCKUggz9ocVag-88eJGpfUufjl.LpblTL8Mx67KpPtm

13-2

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14. Nov. 17-21

Violence, Guns, & Reactionary Populism in the Twenty-First Century

Reading Assignment: Courtwright, *Violent Land*, chapters 10-12,
Conclusion

14-1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/_yz9uIM8-YhrZJazHb-Hwv39ji-K3gxMJtW-Bqt9KU97uOY162BvPfChIvAnJHg7.hsrWjmorArILo-Wm

14-2

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15. 24-28

Thanksgiving Holiday

16. Dec. 1

Violence in Modern America

Lecture 16-1: Zoom link:

No Reading Assignment

16-1

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/v6g2fyXxCNU5pVegrzj-v18KpcSoC-Oz_mCmqFuWs1gq3DHqK1d6ZFrEc4SJU6iR.spoDMACTHjn_8KIR

Dec. 2

End-of-Semester Examination