

**Professor:** Dr. Egbert Zavala

**Email:** egbertz@utep.edu

**Lectures:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30PM to 2:50 PM

**Location:** Education Building 112

**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00AM to 10:30 AM (Or by appointment)

**Office Location:** Education Building Room 111

**Office Phone:** 915-747-6218

### **Course Overview & Objectives:**

This course will cover fundamental and advanced topics in the study of violent crime. By the end of the course, you will be expected to fully understand: (a) the different types of aggression and violent behavior, (b) historical trends and recent patterns in violence, (c) the biological, psychological, and sociological explanations of violence, (d) the contexts and settings of violence (i.e., the home, school, workplace, etc.), (e) gangs and violence, (f) drugs, alcohol, firearms, and violence, and (g) violent crime control.

### **Required Textbook:**

Alvarez, Alex and Ronet Bachman. (2020). *Violence: The Enduring Problem*. (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). Sage Publications: Los Angeles, CA.

### **Course Requirements**

There are certain requirements that will be necessary to pass this class. The requirements are explained in this syllabus. Students will be given four exams and four written assignments during the semester.

### **Class Structure, Important Announcements, and Participation**

You are responsible for keeping up with the assigned readings and being prepared for class discussions. The textbook readings are intended to provide background information to my lectures. Because I like to have class discussions when I am lecturing, it is of utmost importance that you read the assigned reading for that particular lecture in the textbook. If for some reason, due to the class discussion, I am unable to lecture on a particular topic in the textbook you are still responsible for knowing that particular section of the assigned reading. So please be aware that you will be tested on what the textbook covers as well as my lectures. The readings will be from the textbook listed above, as well as any other material that I may handout during the semester. I will not be posting my lecture slides online.

### **Simple Rules for Class Behavior**

PLEASE BE IN CLASS ON TIME! Class starts at 1:30PM. If you are unable to make it to class at 1:30PM during this semester because of work or other commitments, I recommend you drop this class. Repeated tardiness, cell phones ringing, sleeping, talking, reading material unrelated to class, i.e. distracting behavior, will not be tolerated and I will ask you to leave the classroom if you are conducting this type of behavior.

### **Use of Laptops and Other Technology In My Class**

Laptops are not necessary in my class. However, the use of laptops will be allowed in my class for note taking ONLY. I also ask that you put all electronic devices away. When entering my class, I ask that you put your electronic devices in your purse/backpack. Furthermore, text messaging via cell phone or any other device will not be allowed in my class. Cell phones and any other devices should be in silent mode while in my class. If, for some reason, you need your phone on because of a particular emergency that day, please speak to me before class, and then, and only then, are you allowed to have your phone on. However, please still have it in silent mode.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is not required in this class as an official portion of your overall grade. However, it is mandatory. Given the rather specialized subject matter of the course those who do attend class regularly will be more likely to understand the material and will therefore be in a better position to do well in the class. If you miss class, please obtain the lecture notes from one of your fellow classmates. I will not provide you with copies of my notes.

### **Exams**

Your grade in this class will be based on 4 exams and 4 written assignments. Make-up exams may only be acceptable under extreme circumstances, such as a medical or personal emergency. I must warn you, however, that I base these decisions on a very narrow definition of extreme. The student must provide me with proper documentation to qualify for a make-up (documentation does not, unfortunately, guarantee that a make-up will be given). Missed exams will be assigned a grade of zero (0). All makeup exams, if granted, must be completed within one week of the original exam date. Exams will cover material from lectures, textbook, and any other material discussed in class.

### **Written Assignments**

Students will be given a written assignment. These written assignments consist of answering a specific question regarding one chapter covered for that week. Answers are limited to no more than 500 words. There will be 4 written assignments and is worth 10 points each. More details will be provided when the assignment is distributed to students.

### **Scholastic Integrity**

In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP.

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, the submission for credit of any work or any materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, an act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such

acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures, and available in the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, and other sanctions.

### Note for Students with Disabilities

If you are registered with the *Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)*, please let me know so I can accommodate your needs. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance in a timely manner.

### Final Grade Calculation:

Your grade in this class will be determined based on the exams and written assignments.

<b>Exam 1</b>	100 Points
Written Assignment #1	10 Points
<b>Exam 2</b>	100 Points
Written Assignment #2	10 Points
<b>Exam 3</b>	100 Points
Written Assignment #3	10 Points
<b>Exam 4</b>	100 Points
Written Assignment #4	10 Points

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Total Points: 440 Points

### Final Grade Distribution:

440-396 Points=**A**  
 395-352 Points=**B**  
 351-308 Points=**C**  
 307-264 Points=**D**  
 263-0 Points=**F**

**Please note:** I have the right to make any changes to the course or syllabus and any changes will be announced ahead of time in class and/or email.

Week	Date	Class Lecture	Readings and Notes
1	Tuesday, August 24	Class Introduction	Syllabus
	Thursday, August 26	As American as Apple Pie	Chapter 1
2	Tuesday, August 31	Continue Ch. 1	
	Thursday, Sept. 2	Explaining Violence	Chapter 2 <b>Assignment 1</b>
3	Tuesday, Sept. 7	Continue Ch. 2	
	Thursday, Sept. 9	Aiding and Abetting Violence	Chapter 3
4	Tuesday, Sept. 14	Continue Ch. 3	<b>Assignment 1 Due</b>
	Thursday, Sept. 16	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Ch. 1, 2, and 3</b>
5	Tuesday, Sept. 21	Assault and Murder	Chapter 4
	Thursday, Sept. 23	Continue Ch. 4	
6	Tuesday, Sept. 28	Violence at Home	Chapter 5 <b>Assignment 2</b>
	Thursday, Sept. 30	Continue Ch. 5	
7	Tuesday, October 5	Rape and Sexual Assault	Chapter 6
	Thursday, October 7	Continue Ch. 6	<b>Assignment 2 Due</b>
8	Tuesday, October 12	<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Ch. 4,5, and 6</b>
	Thursday, October 14	Stranger Danger	Chapter 7 <b>Assignment 3</b>
9	Tuesday, October 19	Continue Ch. 7	
	Thursday, October 21	Crowd Violence	Chapter 8
10	Tuesday, October 26	Continue Ch. 8	<b>Assignment 3 Due</b>
	Thursday, October 28	Terrorism	Chapter 9
11	Tuesday, November 2	Continue Ch. 9	
	Thursday, November 4	<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>Ch. 7,8 , and 9</b>
12	Tuesday, November 9	Genocide	Chapter 10 <b>Assignment 4</b>
	Thursday, November 11	Continue Ch. 10	
13	Tuesday, November 16	Toward Violence Prevention	Chapter 11 <b>Assignment 4</b>
	Thursday, November 18	<b>No Class</b>	<b>ASC Meeting Work on Assignment 4</b>
14	Tuesday, November 23	Continue Ch. 11	Chapter 11 <b>Assignment 4 Due</b>
	Thursday, November 25	<b>No Class</b>	<b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>
15	Tuesday, November 30	Continue Ch. 11	
	Thursday, December 2	Victim-Offender Overlap	
16	Tuesday, December 7	<b>Exam 4</b>	<b>Ch. 10 and 11</b>