

01:202:497:81 Understanding School Violence

[Fall 2017]

Monday 6:00 pm-8:40 pm

September 11 – December 13

Instructor(s): Dr. Michele Muni

Location: Mercer

Course description

The past six decades of presidential platforms have focused on either criminal justice or homeland security issues. Each presidential candidate offering plans to create policies that will reduce crime, racial disparity, and improve homeland security. During the past 20 years along with crime, racial disparity, and homeland security issues, school districts have had to deal with waves of school violence. One of the earliest deadly massacres, however, occurred in 1927, thus school violence is not new. Since school violence is not a new phenomenon, then why has school violence developed such an interest from the public? Is the problem as bad as it seems or is the media creating fear?

This course offers an introduction to school violence. Throughout the semester we will explore the nature and extent, causes and consequences, and proposed remedies to widely recognized forms of school violence such as bullying, fighting, sexual assaults/harassment, dating violence, and school shootings. Students are asked to keep an open mind about how they feel the problems of school violence could be addressed and solved.

Course Aims and Objectives

- 1) At the end of this course students will be familiar with the history and definitions of school violence.
 - Why: As future or current criminal justice professionals, students should become familiar with a type of violence that is impacting the future of the country. Youth should feel safe at school. Thus, it is the responsibility of criminal justice professionals to understand how to prevent danger within the schools. Understanding the history of school violence will help in preventing future events since history tends to repeats itself.
 - What: PowerPoints, videos, and class discussion
 - How (Assessment): Discussion boards and exams

- 2) At the end of this course students will be able to critically discuss the different types of school violence and the causes of school violence
 - Why: As future or current criminal justice professionals, students should be familiar with and understand the various influences that cause school violence. It is not enough to simply memorize certain facts and theories about violence. Such facts and theories are useless unless you can apply them to your own lives and the larger community.
 - What: PowerPoints, videos, and class discussion
 - How (Assessment): Discussion boards and exams.

- 3) At the end of this course, students will be able to discuss the causes of school violence.
 - Why: As future or current criminal justice professionals, students should be familiar with and understand the various influences that cause school violence.
 - What: PowerPoints, videos, and class discussion
 - How: (Assessment): Discussion boards and exams.

- 4) At the end of this course, students will be able to discuss methods used by society to deter and prevent school violence.
 - Why: As future or current criminal justice professionals, students should be familiar with and understand the current policies used to prevent and intervene in delinquency behavior and whether these policies are effective.
 - What: PowerPoints, videos, and class discussion
 - How: (Assessment): Discussion boards and exams.

Program in Criminal Justice Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Learning Goals:

A Statement of Principles

The Program Committee for the Program in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University in New Brunswick has adopted a series of learning goals for students who complete the major. These goals represent the consensus of the faculty regarding the concepts a student should grasp and the skills a student should acquire in the course of completing the major. These goals guide the choices faculty make about the structure of the curriculum and the requirements for our majors. Moreover, they guide faculty and instructors preparing course material and teaching courses.

The Program in Criminal Justice will provide students with a rich understanding of crime and criminal justice in the United States and abroad through an interdisciplinary approach that blends a strong liberal arts educational experience with pre-professional instruction in the field of criminal justice. Graduates of the program will be well-informed citizens on the topic of crime and justice, and qualified for graduate study or for employment as practitioners in a variety of legal, policymaking, and law enforcement fields.

Criminal justice majors graduating from a research university should be able to use critical thinking, factual inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to individual and group behavior. In addition, students should have an understanding of the legal, political and policymaking processes that affect criminal justice systems in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Finally, students should be familiar with the institutional structures and latest developments in the field in order to engage in meaningful debate about current public policy issues.

Learning Goals for Criminal Justice Majors

- **Competence:**
 - a.) **Theory.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand

and be able to articulate, both orally and in writing, the core theoretical concepts that form the foundation of analysis and research in criminology and criminal justice today. Core concepts are derived from explanations of crime from a variety of perspectives, including biogenic, psychological, and sociological approaches. There are myriad theories of crime that are informed by these perspectives, including, classical, control, critical, ecology, labeling, learning, strain, and trait-based approaches. Theoretical literacy should extend to multicultural and international understanding.

b.) **Institutions.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand the special role of three types of institutions: Police, Corrections, and Courts. In addition, students should know how institutional forms vary across jurisdictions and how these institutions interact with and influence each other.

c.) **Research Methods.** Students who complete the criminal justice major should be familiar with the tools, techniques, and data sources necessary for empirical analysis. Students should understand the various ways that empirical analysis is used in the scientific approach: for description, for developing, and for testing theories. They should be able to analyze data using computer applications and should be familiar with basic statistical techniques and regression analysis. They should be able to read and assess research from a wide range of sources, including general interest, academic, and government publications.

- **Critical Thinking:** Upon completion of the major students should be able to apply their understanding of core concepts and quantitative tools to analyze and research real world problems, and evaluate alternative policy proposals on a range of criminal justice issues, from micro-level analyses relevant to particular cases to management concerns to macro-level analyses of legislative and other broad-scale policies. Accomplishment of this goal will require that students can apply their literacy and numeracy skills to different institutional structures, within the U.S. and across countries.
- **Scholarship:** Qualified majors should have an opportunity through such avenues as advanced coursework, internships, and faculty interactions to conduct independent research on matters of central relevance to the field of criminal justice.

School Policies

1. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) **Read all assigned materials:** As indicated above, not only does active participation in course discussions promote independent thinking, but it also creates an atmosphere that generates thoughtful reflection and stimulates others to comment and ask questions.

Materials and Access

Bazelow, Emily. 2014. *Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character Empathy*. Thirteenth Edition. Peng Rang. ISBN: 9780812982633

Langman, Peter. 2015. *School Shooters, Understanding high school, college, and adult perpetrators*. Roman and Littlefield. ISBN: 9781442233560

Newman, Katherine. *Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings*. Fourth Edition. Perseus D. ISBN: PUBLISHER: PERSEUS D. ISBN: 9780465051045

Simmons, Rachel. 2002. *Odd Girl Out*. Eleventh Edition. HM. ISBN: 9780547520193

Assignments and Grading Procedures

A: 90-100

B+: 87-89

B: 80-86

C+: 78-79

C: 70-77

D+: 68-69

D: 60-67

F: Below 60

Objective	Why	What (Project)	How (Assessment)
At the end of this course students will be familiar with the history and definitions of school violence.	As future or current criminal justice professionals, students should become familiar with a type of violence that is impacting the future of the country. Youth should feel safe at school. Thus, it is the responsibility of criminal justice professionals to understand how to prevent danger within the schools. Understanding the history of school violence will help in preventing future events since history tends to repeats itself.	Weekly readings/videos and discussion	Discussion Board Newspaper Analysis
At the end of this course students will be able to critically discuss the different types of school violence and the causes of school violence	As future or current criminal justice professionals, students should be familiar with and understand the various influences that cause school violence. It is not enough to simply memorize certain facts and theories about violence. Such facts and theories are useless unless you can apply them to your own lives and the larger community.	Weekly readings/videos and discussion	Discussion Board Newspaper Analysis Final Paper

At the end of this course, students will be able to discuss the causes of school violence.	As future or current criminal justice professionals, students should be familiar with and understand the various influences that cause school violence.	Weekly readings/videos and discussion	Discussion Board Newspaper Analysis Final Paper
At the end of this course, students will be able to discuss methods used by society to deter and prevent school violence.	As future or current criminal justice professionals, students should be familiar with and understand the current policies used to prevent and intervene in delinquency behavior and whether these policies are effective.	Weekly readings/videos and discussion	Discussion Board Newspaper Analysis Final Paper

Syllabus Quiz: 10 Points

Midterm Exam: 15 points (multiple choice and essay)

Discussion Boards: 15 points X 3 = 45

- ❖ See the rubric at the end of the syllabus

Final Exam Discussion Board: 30 points

- ❖ See the rubric at the end of the syllabus

Assignment Instructions: Post a discussion that proposes a creative strategy of introducing and explaining the dangers of school violence to either elementary, middle school, or high school students. A central purpose of the project is to have you analyze strategies that have been proposed, determine their effectiveness, and propose more creative and thought provoking methods of explaining dangers to students. Examples could be bullying, suicide, school shootings, gang violence, and even terrorism.

An **introduction** must be provided to summarize and define your idea, including a clear statement of the problem or issue of concern. In addition, you need to select a **theoretical framework** for your issue and describe its relevance to the issue that you write about. **The next section** should discuss interventions that have been implemented or should be implemented to address your problem. **A conclusion** must be provided that summarizes your research.

Original Post DUE: 12/4

Response Post DUE: FRIDAY 12/8

During class on 12/4 students will introduce their post to the class and take questions and answers

Students **MUST** respond to AT LEAST ONE OTHER STUDENT'S proposal, giving thoughtful suggestions and comments. Responses are due by 12/8.

During class on 12/11 students will respond to at least two comments from students in the class.

Course Schedule

Schedule

	Topics	DUE DATES
MODULE ONE		
Introductions Concept of Juvenile Delinquency		
Weeks One and Two (9/11-9/18)	Expectations What is School Violence?	
MODULE TWO		
TYPES OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE		
Weeks Three and Four (9/25-10/2)	Bullying/Cyber Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/25: Syllabus Quiz
Weeks Five and Six (10/9-10/16)	Deadly Violence: Suicide Deadly Violence: School Shootings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Board One Original Post Due – 10/ 9(11pm) Discussion Board One Response due: 10/16 (11 pm)
Weeks Seven and Eight (10/23-10/30)	Deadly Violence: Types of Shooters Deadly Violence: College Shooters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Board Two: Newspaper Original Post Due – 10/23 (11pm) Discussion Board Newspaper Response Due: 10/30 (11pm) 10/30 MIDTERM EXAM
MODULE THREE		
HOT TOPICS		
Week Nine (11/6)	Gangs, Goths, and Cliques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Board Three Original Post Due – 11/ 6(11pm) Discussion Board Three Response due: 11/13 (11 pm)
Week Ten (11/13)	American Society of Criminology (No Class)	
Week Eleven (11/20)	Prevention of School Violence	
Week Twelve (11/27)	Crisis Intervention	
Week Thirteen (12/4)	Wrap-Up	FINAL PRESENTATIONS – All students will present on both days
Week Fourteen (12/11)	Wrap-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FINAL PRESENTATIONS – All students will present on both days

MODULE ONE

Week One (September 11): Introduction To Course

This is an introductory week in which you will learn about your classmates, reflect upon your goals for the course, and consider questions that you may have about the class.

Week Two (September 18): In recent years, politicians and even some criminologists have espoused the view of a super predator generation of youth. The truth is, juvenile delinquency is

not a new idea. There is evidence of juvenile delinquency dating to 306 B.C. and school violence dating to 1600 AD. During this class period, students will explore the historical aspects of school violence.

WHAT IS SCHOOL VIOLENCE?

McCabe and Martin. 2005. *School Violence, The Media and Criminal Justice Responses*. Chapter One.

Reading Considerations:

- Why is school violence difficult to define?
- Is school violence a new phenomenon?

MODULE TWO

This module focuses on different types of violence within the school such as bullying, deadly school violence, gang violence and cliques. The dominant sociological perspectives on the causes of school violence are explored, such as strain and social learning.

Week Three (September 25): Bullying in Schools

Bazelon, Emily. 2014. *Sticks and Stones, Defeating The Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy*. Pp. 1-56

Simmons, Rachel. 2002. *Odd Girl Out, The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls*. Introduction and Chapter 1.

❖ ASSIGNMENT: SYLLABUS QUIZ

Week Four (October 2): Cyber Bullying

Simmons, Rachel. 2002. *Odd Girl Out, The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls*. Chapter 4

Reading Considerations:

- What are some theoretical explanations for bullying?
- What are the elements of bullying?
- Why do people bi-stand?

Week Five (October 9) – Deadly School Violence: Suicide, Bullying, and the Legal System

Bazelon, Emily. 2014. *Sticks and Stones, Defeating The Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy*. Chapters 3 and 6

New York Times article - *Groups Converge for Mock Shooting Near University of Texas*

- In class screening of: *Web of Lies, Friend Request*
<http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3e93ms>

Reading Considerations:

- How could bullying affect suicide
- Should the legal system become involved in cyber bullying? Why or why not?
- Have there been any legal cases involving cyber bullying?
- Where was the first cyber bullying case?

Assignments:

❖ Discussion Board One: Right to Carry on College Campuses??

How do you feel about carrying weapons on college campuses? What are some of the pros and cons? Conduct a little research. After considering your views, discuss your views with classmates. Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for quality and a detailed analysis linking the material to a critical appraisal of theory, policy, and practice. In all cases, students must cite in-text and provide a full bibliography/works cited at the end of their post for all citations mentioned in the post. Do not simply state, I agree or disagree, support your opinions with academic proof.

- **Original Post: October 9 (11:00 pm)**
- **Response Post: October 16 (11:00 pm)**

Week Six (October 16) - School Shootings – Explaining Rampage School Shootings

Newman, Katherine. *Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings*. Fourth Edition. Perseus D. ISBN: PUBLISHER: PERSEUS D. ISBN: 9780465051045. Chapter Three

Reading Considerations:

- What are the causes of rampage shootings?
- Where do rampage shootings occur? Are they more prevalent in the urban environment, the suburbs, or the rural environment?

Week Seven (October 23) School Shootings – Types of School Shooters

Langman, Peter. 2015. *School Shooters, Understanding high school, college, and adult perpetrators*. Roman and Littlefield. ISBN: 9781442233560. Chapters 1-3

- In Class Screening: *Raising Adam Lanza*
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/after-newtown/>

Reading Considerations:

- Is there a “certain type” of school shooter?
- Is it useful to classify school shooters? Why or why not?

❖ Discussion Board Two: Newspaper Discussion

Assignment: Consider a recent news article that relates to the readings that were covered in class. Pose a question on the discussion board forum. Provide your own opinion about the news article and provide evidence from the readings and from at least one outside source. Be sure to include theoretical perspectives.

Original Post Due: October 23

Response Posts Due: October 30

Week Eight (October 30) College Shootings

Langman, Peter. 2015. *School Shooters, Understanding high school, college, and adult perpetrators*. Roman and Littlefield. ISBN: 9781442233560. Chapter 6

- Screening of *Deadly Tower*

Reading Considerations

- Are college shootings a new phenomenon?
- What causes college campus shootings? Are the reasons different than high school shootings?

Assignments:

- **Response Posting Due: October 30 (see above)**

❖ MIDTERM EXAM TODAY

MODULE THREE: PREVENTION AND CRISIS INTERVENTION

This module concludes with a discussion on gangs and cliques and current policies that have been implemented in schools to reduce violence. The dominant strategies focused on in this section include zero tolerance, legislation, and school climate changes.

Week Nine (November 6): Gangs, Goths, and Cliques

McCabe and Martin. 2005. *School Violence, The Media and Criminal Justice Responses*. Chapter Four

Reading Considerations:

- What theoretical explanation could help explain why youth join gangs or cliques in school?

- ❖ **Discussion Board Three:** Consider a recent news article (within the last two years) that relates to school violence in other countries. According to the media, where does it appear that school violence is occurring the most? Is school violence in other countries similar to that of the United States? Pose a question on the discussion board forum. Provide your own opinion about the news article. Be sure to include theoretical perspectives (base your opinions on criminological theories AND academic literature)

- Original Post Due: November 6
- Response Posts Due: November 13

Week Ten (November 13): AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

Week Eleven (November 20): Prevention of School Violence

Bazelon, Emily. 2014. *Sticks and Stones, Defeating The Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy*. Chapter 7

Langman, Peter. 2015. *School Shooters, Understanding high school, college, and adult perpetrators*. Roman and Littlefield. ISBN: 9781442233560. Chapter 8-9

McCabe and Martin. 2005. *School Violence, The Media and Criminal Justice Responses*. Chapter Six

Reading Considerations

- What has been proposed to help prevent school violence?
- How could the school environment be changed to promote safety?

Week Twelve (November 27): Crisis Intervention

Week Thirteen (December 4): Final Presentations

Week Fourteen (December 11): Final Presentations

Other Useful Information

Information on Paper Design

APA style: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

- Articles in peer reviewed journals: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/07/>
- Books: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/08/>
- Online Sources: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/10/>
- Sample Paper: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/18/>

APA in text citations: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/2/>

Organizing Literature Reviews: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/994/04/>

Critical Thinking: <http://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/the-national-council-for-excellence-in-critical-thinking/406> (Be familiar with the elements of thought section)

Rubric Section

Discussion Board Rubric				
	Fails to Participate	Poor	Satisfactory	Excellent
POINTS	0	3.25	3.75	5
Demonstrates content knowledge, understanding. Demonstrates careful reading and inquiry into the subject matter	Failed to Submit	Reflections show very little evidence of understanding of the subject matter.	Reflections demonstrate understanding and application.	Reflections demonstrate understanding and application of the reading. Reflections include critical thinking and synthesis. Shows original thought. Reflections incorporate course concepts and readings with knowledge learned in prior courses and/or applied social media/news articles.
Responses	Failed to submit	Responded without providing any proof supporting the opinion.	Responses provided some academic support for personal opinions.	Responses included a detailed analysis linking your opinion to the material through a critical appraisal of theory, policy, and or practice. Responses were not simply I agree with you or disagree with you.
On Time			ONE DAY LATE	YES

Newspaper Discussion Board Rubric

	Fails to Participate	Poor	Satisfactory	Excellent
POINTS	0	3.25	3.75	5
Newspaper		<p>Considered an old news article that relates to the readings that were covered in class. Did not pose a relevant question on the discussion board forum.</p> <p>No theoretical grounding or literature.</p>	<p>Considered a fairly recent news article that relates to the readings that were covered in class. Posed a question on the discussion board forum. Provided your own opinion about the news article and provide some evidence from the readings and from at least one outside source. Included a theoretical perspective.</p>	<p>Considered a recent news article that relates to the readings that were covered in class. Posed a question on the discussion board forum. Provided your own opinion about the news article and provide evidence from the readings and from at least one outside source. Included theoretical perspective.</p>
<p>Demonstrates content knowledge, understanding.</p> <p>Demonstrates careful reading and inquiry into the subject matter</p>	Failed to Submit	Reflections show very little evidence of understanding of the subject matter.	Reflections demonstrate understanding and application.	<p>Reflections demonstrate understanding and application of the reading.</p> <p>Reflections include critical thinking and synthesis.</p> <p>Shows original thought.</p> <p>Reflections incorporate course concepts and readings with knowledge learned in prior courses and/or applied social media/news articles.</p>
Responses	Failed to submit	Responded without providing any proof supporting the opinion.	Responses provided some academic support for personal opinions.	<p>Responses included a detailed analysis linking your opinion to the material through a critical appraisal of theory, policy, and or practice.</p> <p>Responses were not simply I agree with you or disagree with you.</p>

FINAL DISCUSSION BOARD

Assignment Instructions: Post a discussion that proposes a creative strategy of introducing and explaining the dangers of school violence to either elementary, middle school, or high school students. A central purpose of the project is to have you analyze strategies that have been proposed, determine their effectiveness, and propose more creative and thought provoking methods of explaining dangers to students. Examples could be bullying, suicide, school shootings, gang violence, and even terrorism.

- Original Post DUE: 12/6
- Response Post DUE: FRIDAY 12/8
- During class on 12/6 students will introduce their post to the class and take questions and answers
- Students **MUST** respond to AT LEAST ONE OTHER STUDENT'S proposal, giving thoughtful suggestions and comments. Responses are due by 12/8.
- During class on 12/13 students will respond to at least two comments from students in the class.

An **introduction** must be provided to summarize and define your idea, including a clear statement of the problem or issue of concern. The **next section** should demonstrate your understanding of the content area (your topic). In addition, you need to select a **theoretical framework (criminological)** for your issue and describe its relevance to the issue that you write about. **The next section** should discuss interventions that have been implemented or should be implemented to address your problem. **A conclusion** must be provided that summarizes your research.

THE GOAL IS TO CONVEY KNOWLEDGE AND PROFESSIONALISM AS CONCISELY AS POSSIBLE. DISCUSSION BOARDS DO NOT ALLOW YOU TO WRITE AS MUCH AS YOU WOULD IN A PAPER. LIKEWISE, IN A PROFESSIONAL SETTING, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUCCINCTLY DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE IN A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME. CONSIDER THIS PRACTICE FOR THE FUTURE.

CRITERIA	0 Points	3.25 to 3.75	3.75 to 4	4 to 4.5	5
Introduction		Fair discussion of the problem statement.	Average discussion of the problem statement.	Above average summary and problem statement.	Excellent summary and clear problem statement.
Demonstrates content knowledge, understanding. Demonstrates careful reading and inquiry into the subject matter	Failed to Submit	Reflections show very little evidence of understanding of the subject matter.	Reflections demonstrate understanding and application.	Reflections demonstrate understanding and application of the reading. Reflections include critical thinking and synthesis. Shows original thought. Reflections incorporate course concepts and readings with knowledge learned in prior courses and/or applied social media/news articles.	Demonstrates content knowledge, understanding. Demonstrates careful reading and inquiry into the subject matter
Theoretical Framework	Failed to submit	Demonstrates limited to poor knowledge of theoretical concepts	Adequately presents some of the central theoretical concepts associated with the criminological theory.	Presents central theoretical concepts associated with the criminological theory. Begins to demonstrate how the theory guides the behavior in this case.	Clearly presents the central theoretical and explains why this framework is an appropriate framework.
Intervention Discussion	No discussion	Demonstrates little knowledge of interventions.	Adequately presents some discussion of interventions.	Above average discussion of the interventions that have been implemented or should be implemented to address the problem.	Clearly discusses the interventions that have been implemented or should be implemented to address the problem
Conclusions	No conclusion	Demonstrates a very inadequate summary of findings.	Adequate summary of research and findings. The majority of the conclusion was simply a cut and paste. No real discussion.	Above average summary of research and findings	Excellent summary of research and findings and recommendations.

Responses/Presentation to class	Failed to submit	Responded without providing any proof supporting the opinion.	Responses provided some academic support for personal opinions.	Responses included an above analysis linking your opinion to the material through a critical appraisal of theory, policy, and or practice. Responses were not simply I agree with you or disagree with you.	Responses included a detailed analysis linking your opinion to the material through a critical appraisal of theory, policy, and or practice. Responses were not simply I agree with you or disagree with you.
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