

**SYLLABUS**  
**CRIM 4349 (600)**  
**Mental Illness and Violence**  
**FALL 2025**

**Instructor:** Monica Molina-Rodriguez

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**Office Hours:** Please email through Blackboard

**A. MAJOR COURSE REQUIRMENT**

- Discussions: There will be weekly discussions online for course participants to engage with one another over various course topics and scenarios.
- End of term paper: At the end of the term each student will complete a term paper over a topic in Management of Criminal Justice.
- Term paper presentation
- Current Events Assignment

**B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Identify the key biological, psychological, and social factors associated with the risk of violence among individuals with mental illness.
2. Develop knowledge of common societal misconceptions about the relationship between mental illness and violence, and support this understanding with research evidence.
3. Demonstrate the ability to use evidence-based tools for assessing the risk of violence in individuals with mental illness.
4. Analyze strategies for preventing violence, focusing on public health and criminal justice interventions.
5. Apply critical thinking to analyze case studies that illustrate the relationship between mental illness and violent behavior.
6. Demonstrate the ability to communicate research findings on violence and mental illness in a clear and professional manner.

**C. LECTURE OR DISUCSSION TOPICS**

- The Danger of Repeatedly Blaming Mental Illness for Violence
- Social Stigma and Exaggerations about Mental Illness and Violence
- Scientific Research on the Link between Violence and Mental Illness
- Cognitive Biases and Exaggerations about Mental Illness and Violence
- Scientific Research on the Strength of Violence Risk Factors
- Multiple Causes of Violence and Categorizing Three Types of Risk Factors
- Preventing Violence: Strategies for Reducing Environment- Level Risk Factors
- Preventing Violence: Strategies for Reducing Individual- Level Risk
- Preventing Violence: Strategies for Reducing Viability and Acceptability of Violence
- Prioritizing Stronger Risk Factors to Prevent Violence

**D. REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED READINGS**

- Violence and Mental Illness; Rethinking Risk Factors and Enhancing Public Safety  
Edition by Eric B Elbogen (Author), Nico Verykousis (Author)

