

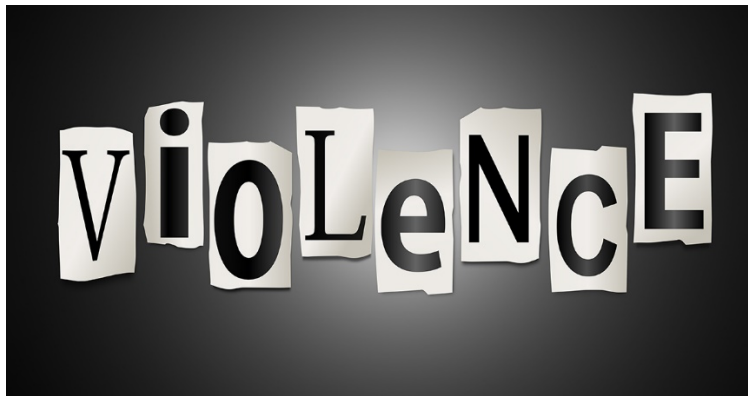
Mental Illness and Violence

CRIM 4349 – Section 605

Spring 2024

Online Course

All Material on Blackboard



Instructor: Dr. Timothy Barnum

Office Hours: Online Appointments Only

Email: tbarnum@tamusa.edu

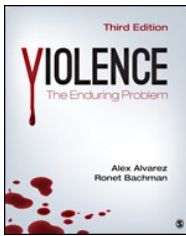
- This is the preferred contact method. **Please provide your Name, Class Name and Number (i.e., Barnum CRIM 3380), and brief topic of email in the Subject Line to ensure I do not miss emails.** I will attempt to respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. Feel free to send follow up emails if I do not get back to you within these time frames.

Course Description

This course is an overview of extreme violent offending, both at the individual and macro levels. The purpose of this course is to gain a deeper understanding of the causes and nature of rare, but extreme forms of violence. Topics include assault and murder, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, terrorism, and serial and mass murder. We will discuss the social and individual factors that lead to these nefarious acts, and discuss potential preventions.

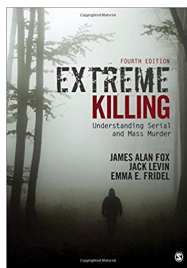
Required Reading Material

Alvarez and Bachman. *Violence: The Enduring Problem*, 3rd Edition.



Optional Reading Material

Fox, Levin, and Fridel. *Extreme Killing: Understanding Serial and Mass Murder*, 4th Edition.



Course Requirements

NOTE: The course Schedule and due dates will be provided in the Weekly Learning Modules tab on Blackboard.

Your performance in the course will be graded on 15 discussion boards, 15 quizzes, and 1 assignment. Grades are not curved and extra credit is not offered individually.

- *Quizzes:* There will be quizzes associated with each assigned reading. These quizzes will be posted on blackboard (total of 15 quizzes) and are worth 10 points each. The quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice and/or true-false questions. Once you begin the quiz you will have 15 minutes to complete it. Since this is an online course the quizzes are open book. With that being said, in order to do well on these quizzes, you need to have read the chapter before starting the quiz. **You will only have 20 minutes to take the quiz.** If you have not pre-read the chapter, you will not be able to find the answers to the questions quick enough.

Links to each quiz can be found in the weekly folder on blackboard. The specific due dates for the quizzes are highlighted in the weekly learning module on Blackboard. Each quiz link will open every Monday morning and will close at 11:59pm the following Sunday. You will NOT be able to take the quizzes after the window closes. This means late quizzes will NOT be accepted. Since the quizzes are done through blackboard, you may take them any time after they are posted (BUT NOT LATE).

- *Discussion Boards:* There will be discussion boards associated with each assigned reading. Discussion boards are posted on blackboard (total of 15 discussion boards) and are worth 15

points each. The discussion boards will ask you to answer one or more questions based on the reading.

Your grade for each post will not only depend on the quality of your original post. You **MUST** respond to at least one other student's discussion board **EACH WEEK**. Your response must go above simply stating that you liked or did not like their comments you will lose points. The goal here is to simulate the discussions that would arise in the classroom.

Links to each discussion threads can be found in the Discussion Boards folder in each module. The discussion board links will open every Monday morning and will close at 11:59pm the following Sunday. You will **NOT** be able to turn in discussion boards after the window closes. This means late discussion boards will **NOT** be accepted. Since the discussion boards are turned in through blackboard, you may turn them in any time after they are posted (**BUT NOT LATE**).

- *Assignments*: There is 1 assignment worth 100 points. The assignment due date in the Weekly Learning Module tab on Blackboard. More details for this assignment will be provide on Blackboard

Course Attendance & Participation

Although this is an online course, your participation will be monitored weekly via the discussion forum and quizzes. For purposes of financial aid, etc., faculty are required to report nonattendance to the registrar's office. If you do not participate regularly in the course you may be dropped administratively by either myself or the registrar's office.

Course Grading

Grading Scale									
A	100 – 90	B	89 – 80	C	79 – 70	D	69 – 60	F	59 – 0

Quizzes (15 @ 10 Points Each) 150 Points possible

Discussion Boards (15 @ 15 Points Each) 225 Points possible

Assignments (1 @ 100 Points) 100 Points possible

475 Points possible

Instructor Expectations

Missed Quizzes and late work: NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

- If you miss a quiz you **MUST**: (1) notify me within 24 hours of missing the exam AND (2) provide me with a **UNIVERSITY EXCUSED** absence for why the exam was missed.
- Excused absences include (but not limited to) documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness. Written documentation for the excuse will be required.
- If you do not follow this procedure, you will receive a zero on quizzes. Format for make-up quizzes are based on Instructor discretion.

Contacting the Instructor: Subject line for all emails: INTRO STATS NAME SUBJECT

In corresponding with me, please note that **e-mail is not a substitute for talking with me face-to-face**. E-mail is appropriate, and preferred, for scheduling appointments and brief questions. However, if you have specific questions about your grades, course materials, or course policies, you need schedule an appointment for a virtual meeting on Zoom. Please be sure to send emails that are professional; this means including a proper subject heading, a proper introduction. I will attempt to respond to your email within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends. If for some reason I am unable to respond within reasonable time, **you may send a follow-up email**.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations of their disability. If you have a disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. After-hours crisis support is available by calling 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (to the extent permitted by law), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff, and faculty who are registered in JagE Alert, will have the option to receive a text message, email, and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming

aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing Center: The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. In addition, you may notify the instructor if you are comfortable doing so.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, about special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person, Room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under A&M System policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

Respect for Diversity: We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the classroom, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.

- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism, and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions of students' freedoms and responsibilities to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System, including the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and staff, and the administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted and compliant with the University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and in the University Catalog.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their University email for any updates or official University notifications.
6. We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.