

SYLLABUS
CRIM 4349 (600)
Mental Illness and Violence
Spring 2026

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Textbook

Violence and Mental Illness; Rethinking Risk Factors and Enhancing Public Safety

Edition by Eric B Elbogen (Author), Nico Verykoukis (Author)

ISBN 9781479801459

Course Description

This course examines the relationship of mental illness to crime by reviewing current empirical research. Programs and policies concerning the treatment of mentally disordered persons are also covered. TSI Restriction(s): Reading, Math, and Writing

Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.

Student Learning Outcomes

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.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through students' performance on assignments, weekly discussion boards, and final term paper.

1. Conduct research using evidence-based sources to support arguments and propose solutions in term papers and projects.
2. Reflect on the ethical and social implications of mental health and violence in discussion boards and written assignments.
3. Demonstrate effective written communication skills in term papers, assignments, and discussion posts by synthesizing research and articulating arguments clearly.
4. Apply theoretical frameworks and research findings to practical challenges, including case studies and discussion-based activities.
5. Identify and explain foundational concepts about the relationship between mental illness and violence through assignments and discussion activities.

Evaluation of Student Performance

Discussion Boards	30%
Current Events Assignment	30%
Paper Presentation	5%
Term Paper	35%