



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC 217

Special Topic: Reflecting on Violence: Contexts, Ethics and Interventions

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Last assessment item due: 25 October

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Lectures: Monday 13:10 - 15:00 Murphy MYLT220

Names and contact details

Lecturer: Dr Carol Harrington
Murphy Building, MY 1022
Tel: 463 7451
Email carol.harrington@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: By appointment

Tutors' names, contact details and office hours are available on Blackboard.

Communication of additional information

Any additional course information will be posted on Blackboard. You will automatically receive all Blackboard announcements as an email sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address. If you are not going to use this Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to forward messages received from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

This course familiarises students with social theories of violence and security in various contexts. We consider state violence, hate crimes, collective violence, torture, terrorism and interpersonal violence. We debate ethical and methodological problems of researching violence and social policies aimed at reducing violence.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Recognise and debate key themes in the sociology of violence.
2. Theorise violence within specific social contexts (family, community, armed conflict).
3. Debate the methodological ethics of researching different kinds of violence.
4. Debate social policy interventions which aim to reduce violence in specific social contexts.
5. Develop skills in locating and evaluating academic literature.
6. Develop skills in reporting on and synthesising academic literature.

Teaching format

Teaching consists of two hours of lecturing per week and nine one hour tutorials. A list of lecture and tutorial topics and dates is available on Blackboard.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements.

Workload

Approximately 200 hours for the trimester. Lectures: 24 hours. Tutorials: 9 hours. Reading, assignment preparation and studying for the test: 167 hours.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Assignment 1 Research poster and tutorial on researching violence	20%	3,4,5,6	Aug 15.
2	Assignment 2 Case Study Statement of Purpose (500 – 600 words) and bibliography + tutorial participation.	10%	1, 2, 4	Sept 23.
3	In class test (50 mins)	20%	1,2,3,4	October 10
4	Assignment 3 Essay on your Case Study (2000 words)	40%	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	October 25
5	Tutorial assignments and participation Bullet points about one of the readings for five separate tutorials and attend the tutorial	10%	1, 2, 3, 4	Varies

Assignment 1: Research poster

Weighting 20%.

A3; An example will be available on blackboard

Due August 15 2016

Select a social science text that reports on a quantitative or qualitative empirical investigation of violence which involved questioning and or observing human respondents. Your chosen text should pay attention to the ethical dimensions of research.

Your poster should:

- Summarise the text.
- Describe the empirical methods used in the research and why those methods were chosen.
- Highlight ethical dilemmas involved in the research and comment on how the author(s) approached these dilemmas.
- Comment on the social policy implications and/ or aspirations of the research.
- Comment on how convincing you found the text.

Assignment 2: Case Study Statement of Purpose and Bibliography

Weighting 10%

Length: 500-600 words (for the case study).

Due September 23

Bibliography: Minimum 3 items, may include primary sources, must include at least one scholarly article, chapter or book.

Tutorial participation: you should attend the tutorials where we discuss your case studies.

Option 1: A Violent Event or Situation

Select a specific case of violence that interests you and you can locate sources about. Your chosen case could be famous, for example a terrorist attack, hate crime or instance of genocidal violence. If you want to cover a major event, such as a genocide or war, it would be best to select a specific instance of violence within it rather than talk about the whole event. You may choose to focus on a personal experience of violence if you feel confident that you can maintain an academically analytical stance toward it and will not find this too distressing.

Your statement of purpose should describe the case, why it interests you and suggest possible approaches to analysis of it in terms of course themes and concepts.

Option 2: Violence, Security and Social Policy

Select a social program or intervention that aims to reduce violence and/or increase security (for example, airport security rituals, restorative justice, action research methods, hate crime legislation).

Your statement of purpose should describe the policy or program and suggest possible approaches to analysis of it in terms of course themes and concepts.

In class test
50 minutes

Weighting 20%

Assignment 3: Essay on your Case Study
Length: 2000 words
Due October 25

Weighting 40%

Your essay should describe the case and offer an analysis of it. Your analysis should draw on theories and concepts covered in the course.

Tutorial assignments and participation

Weighting 10%

Submit bullet points (4-8 points) about one of the readings for five separate tutorials and attend the tutorial (5 points). Half of your bullet points may consist of quotations from the reading you find particularly interesting and/or puzzling. Your bullet points must arrive **before** the tutorial and you must attend the tutorial.

Submission and return of work

All written assignments should be uploaded through Turnitin. Additionally, a paper copy of the Case Study statement of purpose and final essay should be submitted to the Assignment Box at the SACS Administration Office, Level 9, Murphy Building (to the side of the lifts), by 4pm on the due date.* Your essay **MUST NOT** be placed in individual staff pigeonholes, or under staff office doors, or handed to lecturers or tutors. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm every day. All work is date-stamped, recorded and then handed to the appropriate markers.

*To avoid creasing your research poster you can hand it in directly to the SACs administration desk.

Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **11.00 am and 3.00 pm only from Monday to Friday**. When the assignments have been marked and are ready to be handed back a notice will be posted on blackboard

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Assignments are due on the dates stated. If for some serious reason you don't think you can get an essay in on time, see your course co-ordinator **prior** to the due date and discuss the problem. Extensions of time are not permitted except for illness or bereavements. For the case study essay extensions may be granted because of examination time table constraints.

Penalties

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy undergraduate courses are subject to a penalty. The exact deduction will be calculated on the basis of one half mark per day late for each 10 marks, i.e. 1 mark will be deducted each day for an assignment worth 20% of the total course mark.

Note: assessment work will not be accepted for marking more than 7 days after the due date or 7 days after an approved extension date.

Set texts

There is no set text or book of student notes for this course. All essential and recommended readings will be placed on Blackboard by the Course Coordinators

Recommended reading

A list of recommended readings for each week can be found on Blackboard. Where copyright allows recommended readings can be downloaded.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

Student feedback

The format of the tutorial assignments has changed to allow for simple bullet points, with just one set of bullet points to be worked up into a fuller response. This was in response to feedback that, while writing responses ensured they did the reading, students felt they had to put too much work into tutorial responses. Additionally, students said there were too many individual pieces of assessment on this course so I have eliminated one of the tests (previously there were two in-class tests).

Students also commented that they got mixed messages from the course tutor and course coordinator. Every effort will be made to ensure good communication with the tutor(s) this year.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Head of School:

Prof Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, MY1019

Phone: 463 6528, Email: brigitte.bonisch-brednich@vuw.ac.nz

International Student Liaison: To be advised

Māori and Pacific Student Liaison: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101
Phone: 463 5432, Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz

Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Sarah Wright, MY1115
Phone: 463 5874, Email: sarah.wright@vuw.ac.nz

School Manager: La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918
Phone: 463 6546, Email: lachelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz

School Administrators: Suzanne Weaver, Debbie Evans, Gill Blomgren, MY921,
Phone: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677, Email:
sacs@vuw.ac.nz

School of Social and Cultural Studies: www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs