



College of Social and Applied Human Sciences
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

SOC*4010*01 | Violence & Society – Gender, Power, and Violence Fall 2022

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Class Time & Location: Mondays & Wednesdays 11:30 am – 12:50 pm in MCKN 121

Calendar Description

This course will focus on the changing nature of violence in our society by critically evaluating theory, research and public policy on the causes and control of violence. The links among structural, institutional and interpersonal violence will be examined as well as the social construction of violence, particularly why some forms of violence are considered to be more serious social problems than others.

Detailed Course Description

This course examines the theme of power as it engages questions of gender and violence from a critical feminist perspective. Our primary objective for the course is to develop a theoretically rich, nuanced, and holistic understanding of the pervasive problems of violence against women (VaW) and gender-based violence (GbV) in contemporary societies by elaborating on the connections between different forms of violence that women and gender non-conforming/diverse individuals experience and the historical, social, political, discursive, and institutional contexts (including the family, the workplace, the law, and medicine) in which they unfold. To this end, in this course, we will adopt an intersectional and interdisciplinary approach employing concepts, ideas, and theories from a range of disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, criminology, and gender studies. Theorizing around the issue of power we will examine different forms, sites and spaces of symbolic, structural, and institutional violence as mutually and dialectically constitutive. Topics will include but are not limited to domestic violence, reproductive violence (e.g., forced sterilization), rape, sexual assault and harassment, and violence against Indigenous girls and women, 2SLGBTQQIA and trans people. We will pay particular attention to power relations related to race/ethnicity, socio-economic status/class, sexuality and sexual orientation, and immigration/citizenship status within the context of gender violence to appreciate how structures of inequality intersect to shape both our (diverse) experiences and understandings of, and responses to, violence as individuals and collectives. We will also explore the social and political relevance of

gender violence to discussions around power and the implications of the ways that different forms of VaW and GbV are defined and understood for social and criminal justice policy and action from a theoretically informed and socially just and engaged perspective. Lastly, in the light of theoretical and conceptual tools that we will acquire throughout the course, we will engage questions about effective responses, interventions and resistance to various forms of gender violence.

The readings will include both foundational texts in the sociological and feminist literature of gender violence and newer critical scholarship on specific, contemporary social and political issues.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, you will be able:

- to develop a theoretically informed, nuanced, and holistic understanding of the pervasive problems of violence against women (VaW) and gender-based violence (GbV) and demonstrate competence in applying a sociological imagination.
- to understand, debate, and apply sociological, feminist, and intersectional (queer and critical race) perspectives to understand violence in society, with a focus on VaW and GbV.
- to cogently discuss how gender violence fundamentally derives from unequal relations of power and how these relations are politically and culturally produced as well as historically situated and structural, but also contested and open to change/transformation.
- to have an understanding of VaW and GbV at the intersections of various structures of inequality (e.g., race/ethnicity, socio-economic status/class, sexuality and sexual orientation, age, and immigration/citizenship status).
- to identify different forms of VaW and GbV and the historical, social, discursive, political, and institutional (e.g., familial, legal, and medical) contexts in which they unfold.
- to critically discuss the role of states and state institutions (e.g., the law) in producing, sustaining, and reinforcing VaW and GbV in Canada and globally.
- to outline and define the historical and contemporary social and political processes, forces, and structures that shape and inform people's individual and institutional experiences of GbV.
- to identify and explore individual and collective strategies of resistance and transformation
- to apply course content and class discussions to contemporary everyday life (what we read and discuss in class is highly relevant to our lives!).
- to improve your critical thinking, reading and writing skills to use academic sources to make convincing and well-grounded arguments through engagement with the course materials and your classmates.
- to demonstrate competence in critically evaluating, synthesizing and communicating information, arguments, and analyses accurately and effectively orally and in writing.

Format

Each class will have a lecture component that will focus on and elaborate the daily/weekly readings. To succeed in this course, you will need to put in time and effort in class and out of class each week. You are expected to attend the lectures, come to class having completed the assigned materials, and actively engage with course material so that you can take part in class discussions and do well in the assignments. As course instructor, I will act primarily as a facilitator, assisting you all to achieve both the course learning objectives and your own individual learning goals and work hard to make this course successful for everyone. I hope you will join me in this endeavor as your active engagement and participation is what will make learning far more enjoyable for all of us.

Restrictions

Restricted to students in BAH:CJPP, BAH:CJPP:C and BAH:SOC with an average of 70% in all course attempts in Sociology and Sociology and Anthropology courses

Requisites

14.00 credits including (SOC*2700 or SOC*3310), (SOAN*3120 or POLS*3650) - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

Textbooks and Other Materials

No book is required for this course. Readings will be available online via ARES Course Reserve, CourseLink, and the links on the syllabus.

Evaluation Components

This course has different evaluation components, including reading quizzes, documentary commentaries, two term tests, and a final (group) project with a presentation component.

Note: This draft outline is for informational purposes only and may change at the instructor's discretion. A complete syllabus will be shared with the students during the first class. In the meanwhile, if you have any questions about the course, please email me at tugce@uoguelph.ca.