

Course: Violence 3: Structural violence, part of the interdisciplinary minor Violence

Coordinator/developer: Don Weenink

Teachers: Don Weenink

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Content

In this course, structural violence pertains to violence which is imminent, and part of the functioning of institutions - arrangements through which people try to attain a shared goal. Various institutions in which violence is foundational to their daily operation will be considered and compared. We will consider the role of violence in state (repression and incarceration), vigilante and criminal organisations, and the relationships between vigilante, criminal and state organisations. Theoretically, the course draws on insights from anthropology, political science and sociology mainly.

Connection with other courses

To enroll, students must have completed the course Violence 0. The goal of this course is to show how violence forms a foundational role in institutions. This course extends the foundational theoretical and methodological issues related to the study of violence that were provided in Violence 0. Second, this course shows how group dynamics and culture discussed in Violence 2 appear at the institutional level.

Learning objectives

After successful completion of the course students:

- have knowledge of the role of violence in the operation of various institutions
- have knowledge of (inter)disciplinary theories to study institutions and violence
- are able to demonstrate this knowledge in written form
- are able to apply this knowledge in an assignment

Learning activities

Reading articles, preparing the seminars by answering questions on the literature, attending seminars, watching documentaries and writing assignments.

Course load

This is a 6 EC credit course which will run four weeks. Students are expected to approximately study 168 hours to finish the course. Twenty hours are devoted to lectures and tutorials. The remaining 148 hours must be devoted to reading the literature and preparing the assignments. It is assumed that Bachelor students can read on average 6 pages per hour (OER Part A Section 2.4). Note that due to the short duration of the course, students are expected to have a high study load and are advised to take this into account when signing up for other courses or planning work activities.

Examination

Four written assignments on the films/documentaries (each 25% of the final grade). The papers can be written individually or in pairs.

Guidelines for the assignments on the films/documentaries:

- Enrich the film/documentary by adding theoretical depth. You do so by discussing five concepts taken from the literature. For instance, consider how the topic/problem/issue of the

documentary/film relates to literature, what are differences and similarities? Or, how can you, based on the concepts and theories provided by the literature, offer a more advanced or balanced understanding of the topic/problem/issue in the documentary/film? Be specific and precise in your application of concepts. Let them work for you.

- The max word count is 500. Strict limit
- **Refer** to the relevant texts and note page numbers. Read the two guidelines at the bottom of this course guid.

Planning (provisional)

Note: log in to UvA domain first, using UvA VPN to access the articles

Week 1. Introduction structural violence

Online only Tuesday 30 November, 15-17: Seminar 1 Group violence and structural violence

Literature:

None

Friday 3 December 3, 13-16.00: Seminar 2 Violence, vigilantes and law

Literature:

Mensah, A. 2005. 'Vigilante homicides in contemporary Ghana', *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 413-427, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2005.06.008>

Muhammad, A. & D. Weenink 2019. 'Vigilante rituals theory: a cultural explanation of vigilante violence'. *European Journal of Criminology*, 1-20, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370819887518>

Muhammad A., D. Weenink and P. Mascini. Under review. 'Engineering vengeful effervescence: Lynching rituals and religious-political power in Pakistan'. On Canvas

Tiwa, D.F.A. 2010. 'Killing Is Just The Best Solution': Lynching as informal incapacitation, *The British Journal of Criminology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azab088>

Documentary:

Murder on Campus: The story of Mashal Khan by BBC Newsnight

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZexWiSO QUI>

Week 2. The state and other violent institutions

Tuesday 7 December, 15-17.00: Seminar 3

Literature:

- Cruz, J.M. 2016. 'State and criminal violence in Latin America.' *Crime, Law and Social Change* 66: 375-396. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10611-016-9631-9>
- Tapscott, R. 2021. 'Vigilantes and the State: Understanding violence through a security assemblages Approach'. *Perspectives on Politics*, 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592721001134>

Wednesday 8 December, 17.00: Deadline submission assignment 1 on Vigilantes and the law

Friday 10 December, 13-16.00, Seminar 4

Literature:

- Lo, T.W., S.I. Kwok & D. Garrett 2021. 'Securitizing the colour revolution: Assessing the political role of triads in Hong Kong's umbrella movement', *The British Journal of Criminology* 61: 1521–1539. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azab034>
- Jaffe, R. 2015. 'From Maroons to dons: Sovereignty, violence and law in Jamaica' *Critique of Anthropology*, 35(1): 47-63. <https://doi:10.1177/0308275X14557093>
- Meagher, K. 2007. 'Hijacking civil society: The inside story of the Bakassi Boys vigilante group of south-eastern Nigeria'. *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 45(1): 89-115. <https://doi:10.1017/S0022278X06002291>

Documentary: Mexican vigilantes stand up against crime, Vice documentary
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XiSnCt9fDc>

Week 3. Violence and authoritarian/totalitarian states

Tuesday 14 December, 15-17.00: Seminar 5 State

Literature:

- Johnston, H. 2012. 'State violence and oppositional protest in high-capacity authoritarian regimes', *International Journal of Conflict and Violence* 6(1): 55-74. <https://doi.org/10.4119/ijcv-2930>
- Slater, D. & Fenner, S. 'State power and staying power: Infrastructural mechanisms and authoritarian durability. *Journal of International Affairs* 65(1): 15–29. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24388179>

Wednesday 15 December, 17.00: deadline submission assignment 2 on Violence, security, criminal groups and the state

Friday 17 December, 13-16.00, Presentation Violence Project/Seminar

- Levitsky, S., & L. Way, L. 2012. 'Beyond patronage: Violent struggle, ruling party cohesion, and authoritarian durability. *Perspectives on Politics* 10(4): 869-889. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592712002861>
- Albrecht, H. & Ohl, D. 2016. 'Exit, resistance, loyalty: Military behavior during unrest in authoritarian regimes. *Perspectives on Politics*, 14(1): 38-52. <https://doi:10.1017/S1537592715003217>
- de Swaan A. 2001. 'Dyscivilization, mass extermination and the state'. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 18(2-3): 265-276. <https://doi:10.1177/02632760122051733>
- Documentary: North Korea - Life Inside the Secret State
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=en6NMBEDj1c>

Week 4. Incarceration institutions and prison gang violence

Tuesday 21 December, 15-17.00: Seminar

Literature:

- Skarbek, D. 2011. 'Governance and prison gangs. *American Political Science Review* 105(4): 702-716. <https://doi:10.1017/S0003055411000335>
- Butler, M., Slade, G. & Nunes Dias C. 2018. 'Self-governing prisons: Prison gangs in an international perspective'. *Trends in Organized Crime*, 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12117-018-9338-7>

Wednesday 22 December, 17.00: deadline submission assignment 3

Thursday! 23 December, 17.00: Seminar

Literature:

- Pettit, B. & Western, B. 2010. 'Mass imprisonment and the life course: Race and class inequality in U.S. incarceration' *American Sociological Review*, 69/2, 151-69. <https://doi.org/10.1177/000312240406900201>
- Wakefield, S., & Uggen, C. 2010. 'Incarceration and stratification' *Annual review of sociology*, 36, 387-406. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.soc.012809.102551>
- Western B & Muller C. 2013. 'Mass incarceration, macrosociology, and the poor' *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 647(1):166-189. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002716213475421>

Documentary: '13th' Netflix documentary
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>

Friday 8 January, 17.00: deadline submission assignment 4

Note 1: acknowledge where you got the idea from

A large part of doing science is about developing something of your own by working with, and building on, other people's ideas. Also, other scientists will want to be able to check ideas. Therefore, you always need to make explicit where you got the idea from. We do this by referring to or 'citing' the work of others. You must do this continuously. Doing so will also help you to sharpen your own ideas in discussion with existing theories, concepts or findings. It is vital that you do not present the ideas of others as if they were your own. Never copy other people's texts without citing them. If you do this without intending to it is a form of theft, usually called plagiarism, and you can be sanctioned for it (see below). If you copy someone else's work and submit it as your own then this is fraud. You must be aware of UvA's regulations considering fraud and plagiarism:

<http://student.uva.nl/en/content/az/plagiarism-and-fraud/plagiarism-and-fraud.html>.

Some examples of a correct style of writing that show where you got the idea are as follows. First you introduce or refer to a concept or definition that an author has brought into the world, for instance: Durkheim (yyyy/2012, zz) uses the term 'X' to refer to ... *or* 'X' is defined by Elias (yyyy/2012, zz) as... Now the purpose of the assignment is to explain the argument of the author further in your own terms, so use your own words. That way we can tell that you have understood the texts. For instance: 'this definition means', 'includes', 'is intended to', 'explains', 'is meant to explain', 'comprises'... etc.

Note 2: Proper referencing

You should comply to the rules of proper referencing, following the Chicago Manual of Style and follow the instructions taught in the course Sociological Craftmanship. Proper referencing is part of the grading criteria of the assignments. Improper or lack of referencing may result into unsatisfactorily grades.

Always add a list of references at the end of your assignment.

In the assignment you should use a specific type of referencing called paraphrasing.

Paraphrasing entails mentioning the author whose arguments you are using in a precise way (by noting the page number), without literally quoting the text. So, you do not use quotation marks. The point is that you demonstrate you are able to rephrase the argument in your own words, but acknowledge where you got the argument from. This is how you should paraphrase in the assignments.

In text:

"Durkheim (yyyy/2012, zz) thinks that university teachers make a big fuss about proper referencing"

In this reference, yyyy is the year of the first publication, 2012 is the year in which the volume by Calhoun et al. was published and zz is the page number in that volume.

In bibliography:

"Durkheim, Émile. 2012. "Title of original work." In *Classical Sociological Theory*, edited by Craig Calhoun, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff and Indermohan Virk, zz1-zz2. Malden (USA)/Oxford (UK): Wiley-Blackwell. First published in yyyy."

In between double or single quotation marks is the original title given by the original author. The zz1 and zz2 refer to the starting and ending pages in Calhoun et al.'s volume, yyyy is the year in which the piece was first published.