COMMUNICATION 3442: Violence in Society and Violence in the Media

ASYNCHRONOUS

Summer 2023

Instructor: Lanier Frush Holt, Ph.D.

Office hours: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays via Zoom. If you’d like to meet via Zoom, especially at a different time, just send a Zoom link.

Best way to reach me:
e-mail: holt.341@osu.edu

Course Description
This course examines the causes, consequences, and cures to human aggression and violence. It discusses how aggression and violence are defined and measured, aggression theories, individual risk factors, contextual risk factors, protective factors, and aggression targets. It examines in detail violent media research. It also discusses how to reduce anger, aggression, and violent media effects.

Prereq: Not open to students with credit for 442 or 2442. GE soc sci indivs and groups course.

Course Learning Goals and Outcomes
The overarching goal of this course is for students to have a concrete knowledge of how to define aggression, as well as the etiology, some of its' triggers, understand ow aggression operates and is measured, and ways to abate various forms of aggression. We will also delve into several scholarly approaches that researchers have used to understand the phenomenon and address its' real-work manifestations.
Mode of Delivery
This asynchronous course will be presented fully online. All lectures are asynchronous. Closed captioning can be turned on by pressing the “CC” button. Links to lectures for each week are on Carmen under “Recorded lectures.” With very rare exception, slides from the course will not be shared with you.

How this course works
There is no standard textbook for the course. Any readings will come from scholarly communication and relevant media articles, all of which will be provided to you via Carmen/Canvas, and contemporary news articles relating to the topic being discussed that day. If you have difficulty receiving or understanding the materials, please contact me immediately. That is why you pay your money to attend OSU, and why I am here.

Any changes in the course for any reason, will be announced during the class session, via e-mail, or will be announced on Carmen.

Course Website
Check the homepage on Carmen regularly for announcements, course changes, or other matters related to the course.

Here is a synopsis of the assignments and point values for the semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Maximum Semester Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>200*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of semester points: 200*

Course Policies
There are very few course policies, but they are firm: tests cannot be made up unless there is a verifiable reason in advance. If you miss a test, you must have documentation to make it up, examples of which include a signed doctor’s note, the program from the event you are attending, or prior permission from the instructor, Dr. Holt. If you miss a test or class for any reason, do not expect me to catch you up or tell you what you missed. As you will hear several times, your education is your responsibility.

Tests/Final Exam: Students must not use notes, readings, or other outside resources (e.g., web based or otherwise) not explicitly allowed by me, when taking exams.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF (Mental Health Statement)

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you are or someone you know is suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life’s Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766.

If you are thinking of harming yourself or need a safe, non-judgmental place to talk, or if you are worried about someone else and need advice about what to do, 24-hour emergency help is also available through the Suicide Prevention Hotline (Columbus: 614-221-5445 / National: 800-273-8255); or text (4hope to 741741); or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Trigger warning

Be advised, this course might deal with controversial and hot-button topics that may cause you anger, frustration, guilt, and a host of other emotions that you may not normally experience in an educational setting. If you feel you are experiencing any of these emotions, please let me know and also seek help from a medical or mental health
professional. Sharing such information with me will not be made available to the class nor will it adversely affect your grade.

Academic Integrity
All students at The Ohio State University are bound by the code of student conduct (see http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asap). Any evidence of academic misconduct will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct in accordance with The Ohio State University Code of Student Conduct and the rules of faculty governance. Academic misconduct is any activity that compromises the academic integrity of the institution or subverts the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct can be found on the above website.

Reasonable Accommodations
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at (614) 292-3307 in 098 Baker Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Grades
Be advised, grades are not discussed immediately after an assignment is returned. Students must wait at least 48 hours after the exam to discuss their grades. All grades are final after one academic week. Professor Holt has the final say on all grades and grade appeals in the course.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>59.9% and below</td>
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Extra credit points: It is solely at the discretion of the instructor to award extra credit points. At this time, there are no extra credit points, but some may arise as the semester progresses.

Credit hour and work expectation
This is a 3-credit-hour course. According to Ohio State policy, students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and
Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C) average. ASC Honors provides an excellent guide to scheduling and study expectations.

**Faculty feedback and response time**
I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call 614-688-HELP at any time if you have a technical problem.)

**E-mail**
I will reply to e-mails within **24 hours on school days.**

**Discussion and communication guidelines**
The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online. I work very hard to provide a positive learning experience. Keep this in mind and remain civilized and respectful in your email and discussion board communications.

**Course technology**
Previous distance learning courses have provided insights from students on how to improve the learning experience and optimize outcomes. Here are a few tips from previous students to encourage you to be successful in this online course:

- Keep up with the videos and take good notes from the slides.
- Make sure to have access to a reliable internet connection.
- Have access to at least one reliable device and a backup plan in case of a technological issue, especially on test day.
- If you have questions, talk to Dr. Holt via Zoom EARLY. Do NOT wait until the final exam to arise with a problem as that will not go well.
- Do the assigned readings before viewing asynchronous lectures, and definitely before doing exams. You will never be able to read enough on exam day to get the article questions right on test day.

For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at [https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours](https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours), and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

- **Tests:**
All tests will be given online via CarmenCanvas. Unless prior changes have been announced, the exam will open on the date listed for the exam on the syllabus. Students can take the exam at any point on the date (Eastern Standard Time) the exam opens. However, students will NOT have the entire day to do the exam. Exams will only be open for the time allotted – usually 80 continuous minutes for regular exams, with extra time added for those with verified needs from OSU for time extensions – for the exam. The allotted time starts the moment the exam is opened online. Meaning, if a student not requiring extra time opens the exam at 1 p.m. EST, for example, the exam will shut off at 2:20 p.m. EST. When exams close, they will not be reopened without permission from Professor Holt. Also remember, exams cannot be made up if they are missed.

- **Carmen:**
  - Carmen, Ohio State’s Learning Management System, will be used to host materials and activities throughout this course. To access Carmen, visit Carmen.osu.edu. Log in to Carmen using your name.# and password. If you have not setup a name.# and password, visit my.osu.edu.
  - Help guides on the use of Carmen can be found at https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmen
  - This online course requires use of Carmen (Ohio State’s learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.
    - Carmen accessibility

- **Carmen Zoom Office Hours:**
  - Office hours will be held through Ohio State’s conferencing platform, Carmen Zoom. A separate guide to accessing Carmen Zoom and my office hours is posted on the course Carmen page under Files.
  - Students may use the audio and video functions if a webcam and microphone are available. If not, there is still a chat function within Carmen Zoom for the student to live chat with me during office hours.

[**Carmen Zoom help guide**](#)

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** [http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice](http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice)
- **Phone:** 614-688-HELP (4357)
- **Email:** 8help@osu.edu
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743
Baseline technical skills necessary for online courses

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen

Necessary equipment

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Web cam and microphone

Necessary software

- Word processor with the ability to save files under .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf. Most popular word processing software programs including Microsoft Word and Mac Pages have these abilities.
- OSU students have access to Microsoft Office products free of charge. To install, please visit [https://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=kb04733](https://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=kb04733)

Course Schedule

**Note:** All readings should be done BEFORE the date listed on the syllabus, (i.e., the June 4th readings should be done prior to class on June 4th), as that is when material related to the readings will be discussed. Also, be advised the readings will not be discussed in detail during the class. *Readings augment what is discussed in class and do not merely rehash the topic.*

As mentioned earlier, whenever possible, a link or the actual reading(s), will be made available to you via Carmen/Canvas. However, in some instances you may have to look up some materials on your own.

The list of readings and dates they will be discussed is tentative and may be changed depending on the speed in which we get through the material and events that transpire in the real world (e.g., if the Boston Marathon Bombings, or a similar event happens during the semester, that will be the topic of the lecture rather than what is listed on the syllabus). Also, readings may be added to, and deleted from, the syllabus as the semester progresses.

**TENTATIVE Course Schedule**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Readings and assignments</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (May 9-12)</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
<td>Introduction to the class, the nature and basis of violence, how scholars measure and analyze it, and lay out the foundations of what you will learn throughout the summer session.</td>
<td>Aversive Events and Aggression – Groves &amp; Anderson (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 (May 15-19)</td>
<td>Theories of aggression</td>
<td>Examine how theorists have analyzed aggression, engage with scholarly research on the topic, and how it relates to contemporary issues today.</td>
<td>Hurt people hurt people Ostracism and Aggression – Re et al. (2017)</td>
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<td><strong>TEST 1</strong> (Given May 19; Due at 11:59 p.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 (May 22-26)</td>
<td>Alcohol and Aggression</td>
<td>Understand the role alcohol might play in thoughts of aggression, and how drinking influences aggressive thoughts and behaviors.</td>
<td>Automatic Effects of Alcohol and Aggressive Cues on Aggressive Thoughts and Behaviors – Subra et al. (2010)</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 (May 29-June 2)</td>
<td>Media Violence and Aggression</td>
<td>Are we a more violent society today than in the past, or are we just hearing more about it via the proliferation of media outlets? Examining what, and how the media play a role in our perception of violence.</td>
<td><strong>TEST 2</strong> (Given June 2; Due at 11:59 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 (June 12-16)</td>
<td>Aggression in everyday life</td>
<td>School bullying, workplace bullying, aggressive driving, road rage, and other forms of aggression we encounter every day.</td>
<td><strong>TEST 3</strong> (Given June 16; Due at 11:59 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 (June 19-23)</td>
<td>Mass Shootings</td>
<td>Aggression on a grand scale: Terrorism and other state, and large-scale individual acts of aggression against individuals and society</td>
<td>Group Aggression – Densley &amp; Peterson (2018)</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Preventing and reducing aggressive behavior</td>
<td>Understanding effective and ineffective anger management techniques</td>
<td>Aggression Prevention and Reduction in Diverse Cultures and Contexts – Anwar et al (2018)</td>
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<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong> (Given June 30; due at 11:59 p.m.)</td>
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About your professor: Dr. Lanier Frush Holt is an award-winning professor having earned the Donald Ecryod Award from the National Communications Association, recognizing him as the Top Communications Educator in the entire field; both the Ohio State University Distinguished Alumni Teaching Award from the administration, and the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teacher of the Year award from the students. All of these awards are earned by a professor only once in a career, and Dr. Holt is the only professor at OSU to have earned all three. He has also been named the national runner-up for the top journalism educator in the nation as well.

Dr. Holt earned his master’s in journalism, specializing in political communication, and a Ph.D. in Mass Communication, examining the effect media messages have on the perceptions of people of color, women, and other marginalized groups, from Indiana University. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Minnesota where he also ran track.

In addition to teaching, Holt earned the Top Faculty paper award in the Electronic News division at a national American Educators for Journalism & Mass Communication conference for a paper that examines if public attitudes toward the Don’t Ask Don’t Tell policy moved in lockstep or discordant with the media’s coverage and political elite’s opinion of the issue.
Prior to his return to academia, Holt was an award-winning newspaper reporter. He has worked as a staff reporter for the Rochester Post-Bulletin, worked at the Chicago Tribune, and Indianapolis Star newspapers. He has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal, interviewed by ESPNU, WOSU, and a host of other media outlets. He has also worked at World Headquarters for Honeywell Inc., the company's aerospace business unit Sensor & Guidance Products, and done public relations for the Minneapolis NAACP.

He hails from Ford Heights, Illinois, which is located south of Chicago, roughly between the city’s south side and Gary, Ind.