

## **SOC 395H1: Gun Violence**

**Fall 2013**

**Professor Jooyoung Lee**

**Department of Sociology**

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**OH: 272 inside 725 Spadina, Fridays 2:30-3:30pm**

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### **Overview**

This course will examine gun violence from different sociological perspectives. From drive-by shootings and stickup robberies to rampage shootings in schools, we will think sociologically about the causes and consequences of gun violence in various contexts. In addition to stimulating your sociological imagination, I hope that you will leave this course with a more critical understanding of gun violence in contemporary society.

### **Required books**

Contreras, Randol. 2013. *The Stickup Kids: Race, Drugs, Violence, and the American Dream*.  
Contreras. Berkeley: UC Press.

Newman, Katherine; Fox, Cybelle; Harding, David; Mehta, Jal; and Wendy Roth. 2004.  
*Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings*. New York: Perseus.

Rich, John. 2009. *Wrong Place, Wrong Time: Trauma and Violence in the Lives of Young Black Men*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

### **Introduction**

**NOTE:** The prerequisite for SOC 395H1F is successful completion of a SOC 200+ level course. Students without this prerequisite will be removed at any time they are discovered.

### **Course Expectations**

#### *Attendance*

Attendance is mandatory.

You are responsible for all material presented in class. Students who are unable to attend class are responsible for obtaining information about any announcements that may have been made in class as well as notes on the material covered from their classmates.

Proper documentation from a University of Toronto Student Medical Certificate or college registrar is required to justify an absence.

## *Course Webpage*

We will have a course website hosted on Blackboard. This website will contain the course syllabus, links to all the readings that are in journal article form, handouts, and course announcements. You are responsible for all the course materials and for all announcements. Please make sure to check your official utoronto.ca email addresses regularly.

## *Live Tweets*

I encourage you to post ideas from lectures and readings to the course Twitter. These can be observations, questions, random ideas, or links to additional readings and media that relate to course material. Please post using the hashtag: **#SOC395gunviolence**. Not only will it encourage critical dialogue with your colleagues, it will also provide me with a sense of what you find interesting, puzzling, and provocative. Each week, I will choose the “top 3” tweets and announce these in lecture. There might be prizes for the most creative and interesting tweets.

## *Assignments*

You will have 4 major grades for this course, which add up to 100% of your final grade (the research paper will be discussed in class):

- 1) An in-class midterm (30%)
- 2) A short research paper (30%)
- 3) An in-class final (30%)
- 4) 2 in-class pop quizzes (10%)

The pop quizzes will be short and in-class assignments. During these assignments, I will play you a video clip or music. You will then write a short response piece on how the multimedia might connect with one of the themes that we have covered in class. These assignments are not meant to test whether or not you know the “right” or “wrong” answers. Instead, these are designed for you to make some connections between readings, lectures, and in-class discussions. Make-ups for these impromptu assignments will **NOT** be accepted. I will only make exceptions for students who provide me with email and medical documentation of an emergency **24 hours before** the class in which I announce these assignments.

**Plagiarism:** Avoid plagiarism. It is a serious academic offense with serious penalties (see the “Code of Behavior on Academic Matters”). If you are using somebody else’s ideas, do not present them as your own, whether you are quoting exact words, paraphrasing or summarizing. Give proper references if you are using somebody else’s ideas, and use quotation marks if you are quoting. When in doubt, it is always safer to over-reference--you are not going to be penalized for that. Go to <http://turnitin.com> to submit your research paper online. “Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.”

**Deadlines:** Late work will **NOT** be accepted.\* I will only make exceptions for students who provide me with email and medical documentation of an emergency **24 hours before** the test dates and deadline to turn in the essay. **Also, the essay must be turned in by YOU; I will not accept papers from friends in or out of the class. Similarly, these papers will not be due at the beginning or end of class. Instead, I will announce sometime in the course of my lecture when I will collect these essays. I will not accept papers from students who arrive early just to drop off their papers and leave. Similarly, if you are not present when I collect these essays, your paper will be counted as LATE. There are no exceptions to this rule.**

Medical documentation must include the University of Toronto's Student Medical Certificate. I will **NOT** accept any other form of medical documentation. The certificate is available on the University of Toronto's website and may be completed by a Health Services physician or by your physician.

\*Late assignments will be penalized 10% for the first week after the original due date and 5% per day afterwards.

**Accessibility Services:** If you have documentation that you are using accessibility services, please see me as soon as possible to discuss how best to assist you in this course.

### **9/13/13--Week 1: Introduction**

### **9/20/13--Week 2: Gun Violence and Policy**

Sherman, Lawrence. 2001. "Reducing Gun Violence: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising." *Criminology & Criminal Justice*. 1:11-25.

Cook and Ludwig. 2002. "The Costs of Gun Violence Against Children." *The Future of Children*. 12(2): 86-99.

Cukier, Wendy. 1998. "Firearms Regulation: Canada in International Context." 19(1): 25-34.

Cook, Philip. 1981. "The Effect of Gun Availability on Violent Crime Patterns. *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 455: 63-79.

Mausser, Gary and W.T. Stanbury. 2003. "Can the Canadian Firearm Registry Reduce Gun Deaths?" *Fraser Forum* 26-27.

### **9/27/13--Week 3: Sociological Perspectives on (Gun) Violence**

Wolfgang, Marvin. 1970. "Social Responsibility for Violent Behavior." *Southern California Law Review* 43: 5-21

Collins, Randall. 2009. "The micro-sociology of violence." *The British Journal of Sociology* 60(3): 566-576.

Farmer, Paul. 1996. "On Suffering and Structural Violence: A View from Below." *Daedalus* 125(1): 261-283.

Miethe, Terance. 1995. "Fear and Withdrawal from Urban Life." *ANNALS of the American Political & Social Sciences*.

### **10/4/13--Week 4: Gunshot Victims 1**

Simon, David. 1992. "A Journalist's View of the Trauma Physician's Dilemma." *JAMA* 188: 577-579.

Introduction-Chapter 7 in *Wrong Place, Wrong Time*.

**10/11/13--Week 5: IN-CLASS MIDTERM**

**10/18/13--Week 6: Gunshot Victims 2**

Chapter 8-Conclusion in *Wrong Place, Wrong Time*

Lee, Jooyoung. 2012. "Wounded: Life After the Shooting." *ANNALS of the American Political & Social Sciences* 642: 244-257.

Lee, Jooyoung. Forthcoming. "The Pill Hustle: Risky Pain Management for a Gunshot Victim." *Social Science & Medicine*

**10/25/13--Week 7: Stickup 1**

Introduction & Part 1 in *The Stickup Kids*

Wright, Richard and Scott Decker. 1997. "Creating the Illusion of Impending Death: Armed Robbers in Action." *The Harry Frank Guggenheim Review* 2(1): 10-19.

**11/1/13--Week 8: Stickup 2 & Other Street Shootings**

Part II & Conclusion in *The Stickup Kids*

Wilkinson, Deanna and Jeffrey Fagan. 1996. "The Role of Firearms in Violence 'Scripts': The Dynamics of Gun Events Among Adolescent Males." *Law and Contemporary Problems* 59(1): 55-89.

Ramos, Reyes. 1998. "Anatomy of a Drive-By: What Can We Learn From An Unexpected Death?" *The Sociological Quarterly* 39(2): 271-288.

**11/8/13--Week 9: School Shootings 1**

Chapter 10 and Part 1 in *Rampage*

**11/15/13--Week 10: School Shootings 2**

Parts II in *Rampage*

**! SHORT Paper Due !**

**11/22/13--Week 11: School Shootings 2**

Part III and Epilogue in *Rampage*

**11/29/13--Week 12: IN-CLASS FINAL**