GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
College of Health and Human Services
Department of Global and Community Health

GCH 602-001--Global Health Issues Related to Violence
SPRING 2012

CRN 16736

First day of class: Tuesday January 24, 4:30 to 7:10 PM
Last day of class: Tuesday May 16

Instructor: Carlos E. Sluzki, MD, Professor, DGCH/CHHS
E-mail: csluzki@gmu.edu
Instructor’s office: Robinson B 419 (Instructor is available every Tuesday from 9 AM on, and as needed by appointment)

Catalog Description: This course explores violence and its impact on health, with a multi-cultural, world-wide lens. It examines biological, psychological and social determinants of violence. The epidemiology of violence is examined with special attention to collective violence, youth violence, abuse and neglect of children and the elderly, intimate partners, sexual violence, self-directed violence, and trans-generational violence. Preventive approaches attempted to help reduce the prevalence of violence are addressed.

Course Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to:
1. Discuss the impact of violence on health throughout the world.
2. Specify types of violence that may be dominant in different areas of the world.
3. Identify major contributing factors to violence.
4. Discuss the research literature that explores the key risk factors for violence.
5. Evaluate levels of risk of violence in vulnerable populations.
6. Contrast the effect of short and long term effects of violence in victims, witnesses and perpetrators.
7. Specify the key components of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders and discuss critically their impact on health.
8. Describe types of interventions, practices and policies aimed at detecting, preventing and reducing violence, and their relative effectiveness.

Teaching Methods and Strategies:
Lectures, discussions, student presentations, group projects, and written assignments. Occasional guest lecturers.

Grades:
1. Pertinent and informed participation in class 30%
2. Short assigned essays throughout the course on themes discussed in class, demonstrating sound tracking of themes and reasoning. 20%
3. Final assignment. Will be specified early in the course (cf. also attached sheet) 50%
**Evaluation Methods:**
Participation will be evaluated by evidence of keeping up with the readings, (including providing summaries of readings when appropriate), and active and pertinent participation in the discussions.
Essays will be evaluated by the tracking of themes, reasoning, and sound use of references. Students will have their final essay returned to them within 2 weeks, with notations and comments by the instructor. The students will have then the opportunity to re-write and re-submit their essay within 10 days. Final assignments will be evaluated by the above, plus the industriousness and feasibility of the project, the appropriateness of its methodology, and when pertinent, the analysis of the results.

**Required Text:**

**Note:** In addition, the students may have access to a substantial archive of recent articles and books on the subject, available via Aladdin or other accessible e-library site, via e-reserve or in some cases at the professor’s office. The specific reference is listed below, tied to subjects.

**TOPICAL OUTLINE & ARTICLES ON RESERVE (they are recommended it addition to, nor replacing, the main text. Other articles may be distributed at class.)**

1/24/12 I. Orientation about the course, final essay, access to references and to instructor.

**Violence: An Introduction**

1/30/12 II. Neurobiology and social psychology of violence + Typologies of violence

2/7/12 III. Self-directed violence + Youth violence

2/14/12 IV. Violence by intimate partners + Abuse of the elderly and of handicapped

2/21/12 V. Child abuse and neglect + The issue of repressed memory
- Wright L: Remembering Satan-Part II *New Yorker* 5/24/93

2/28/12 VI. Cults/sects
- Several books/articles on sects and related subjects will be made available for student two weeks in advance.

3/6/12 VII. Sexual violence, female circumcision
- Amira El Ah: A small revolution in Cairo: Theologians Battle Female Circumcision. *NYT* December 6, 2006

3/13/12 VIII. Collective violence: Wars old and new + Terrorism

3/20/12 IX. Genocide & Political oppression. Concentration camps, extreme prisons
- Wood N (1992): The Hardened Skin of Memory. *Readings* 4-7

3/27/12 X. The “torture” issue. Victims of torture.
- Piwowarezyk, L; Moreno, J & Grodin, M/ (2000): Health care of torture survivors. *JAMA* 284:539-541

4/3/12 XI. Refugees, IDPs,


4/10/12 XII. Human trafficking + Preventive interventions and community action

- Gutlove P (1999) Health as a bridge to Peace. (manuscript presented at the Global Symposium on Violence and Health, Kobe, Japan)

4/17/12 XIII. Additional themes + Student Presentations
4/24/12 XIV Student Presentations
5/1/12 XV. Last day of class; loose ends, feedback, course evaluation, closure

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Academic Honesty: George Mason University operates under an honor system, which is published in the University Catalog and deals specifically with cheating, attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. Please familiarize yourself with the honor code, especially the statement on plagiarism (http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html). Violation of this code may have severe consequences in the student’s academic standing. If you have questions about when the contributions of others to your work must be acknowledged and appropriate ways to cite those contributions, please talk with the professor. Essays/monographs may be randomly scanned with plagiarism-detecting software.

Students with Disabilities: All students with questions or concerns about this class are encouraged to set up a time to meet with the professor, preferably during the first 2 weeks of the semester. Any student with a documented disability or other condition that may affect academic performance should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 211; 993-2474; www.gmu.edu/student/ods) to determine the accommodations you might need.
Grading System:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>F</td>
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Plus and minus grades are used inside the range of satisfactory performance. Grades below B are unsatisfactory and consist of two categories: C (unsatisfactory, passing) and F (unsatisfactory, failing).

**Incomplete Letter Grade.** For causes beyond reasonable control, a student may be unable to complete a course or course assignment on schedule. In such cases, the instructor may assign a temporary grade of Incomplete (IN). Graduate students have only nine weeks to complete work in a course in which they received a grade of IN. If the student fails to complete all requirements in time for the instructor to assign a regular grade by the end of the ninth week of classes of the next semester (excluding Summer Term), the mark of IN is changed by the Office of the Registrar to F. The student is responsible for submitting work to the instructor with sufficient time allowed for its evaluation. As long as the mark of IN remains on the transcript, it is treated as an unsatisfactory grade and may contribute to dismissal.

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