

San José State University
Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
Sociology 151, Violence in the Family, Fall 2025

COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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| Instructor: | Soma de Bourbon |
| Office Location: | DMH 238A |
| Telephone: | N/A |
| Email: | soma.debourbon@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | Wednesdays 12:30 to 2:00 pm at the Native American and Indigenous Student Success Center (the old Chapal near Tower Hall) and by appointment |
| Class Days/Time: | Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 to 4:15 pm |
| Classroom: | DMH 231 |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A sociological examination of violence in families focusing on the causes and consequences of violence and on the ways in which various social institutions and community agencies respond to violence among intimates.

COURSE FORMAT

This class meets in person in WSH 207.

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication systems as indicated by the instructor). To log onto Canvas, go to <https://one.sjsu.edu/>

For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page](#).

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO)

| CLO | Measurement |
|--|--|
| Provide examples for some of the sociological theories that address family violence. | 1. Midterm and final exam 2. Hattery and Smith and Katz reading analysis 3. In-class exercises |
| Discuss some of the lived consequences of family violence. | 1. In-class discussions of personal experiences of family violence. 2. In-class group analysis of Ted Talks |
| Identify and describe from a sociological perspective some of the factors that increase a family or individual's risk of surviving family violence or becoming a perpetrator of family violence. | 1. Midterm and final exam 3. Reading presentations |
| Compare some of the intervention strategies utilized by hospitals, police officers, the courts, and community agencies. | 1. Midterm and final exam 3. Reading presentations |

REQUIRED TEXTS / READING

There are two required books for this class. Both books should be available in the library. Please check that you are reading the second version of the Hattery and Smith book. *Additional required readings* are available on Canvas and/or the internet.

Hattery, Angela and Earl Smith. *The Social Dynamics of Family Violence*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-8133-4463-8 (paper) ISBN: 978-0-8133-4562-8 (e-book).

Katz, Jackson. *The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help*. Sourcebooks, Inc. Naperville, IL. ISBN: 978-1-4022-0401-9 (paper), online also acceptable.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

****If you are struggling or think you may fail the class, please come and see me during office hours. The earlier you talk with me, the more I can assist you. Please do not come to discuss passing the class in the last three weeks of the semester.**

Exams (50%: 25% for midterm, 25% for final exam)

The exams, one midterm and one final, will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answers based on the readings, classroom presentations, and discussions. A makeup of a missed exam requires an official notice from a doctor, court officer, or other official.

In-Class Reading Quizzes (25%)

Some information about the Reading Quizzes:

- The quizzes will take place during the first ten minutes of class. If you come late, you will not be able to take the quiz.
- There will be eight to ten quizzes during the semester.
- Your lowest score will be dropped.
- You can bring one hand-written sheet of paper with you to use for the quiz.
- There are no make-up quizzes since you can miss one quiz without it affecting your grade.
- The first three quizzes will consist of the following open-ended question: “Discuss three things you learned from the reading.” You will be asked to respond with a one to two paragraphs answer.

Participation/Discussion/Films (15 %)

We will do in-class assignments most class sessions. You get points for showing up to class and doing the assignment. Points are not assigned based on how many times you raise your hand or talk in class. Some students do not enjoy talking in front of the class, and other students enjoy it. I would like every person to participate as much as they are able. See classroom protocol for use of devices, which is a different issue.

CONNECTION PROJECT 10%

In order to learn about the impacts of family violence, you have two options for this assignment.

Option 1: Review a peer-reviewed article on some aspect of family violence and write a one-page summary of the article you read (and turn it in) and present it to the class.

Option 2: Write one page about the impact of family violence or the lack of family violence on your life (you will bring this to class but not turn it in) and present something about what you wrote to the class. For example, how has the violence or lack of violence you experienced affected you and your family? If you share your experience, please only share what you are comfortable sharing.

LATE POLICY

I will accept assignments turned in to me before class up until one week past the due date. I will not accept assignments through email. If you turn in the assignment late, you will receive partial credit, up to one half of the full credit for the assignment.

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

You are expected to arrive on time, participate in class discussions, and to be attentive during lectures and discussions. It is important to be courteous and respectful to your peers as well as to the instructor. Please refrain from using computers (unless typing notes from lecture for Sociology 151), cell phones, earphones or other devices during class. When someone is using their phone or browsing the web on their computer, it is difficult to lecture, and makes discussions impossible. It is also distracting to other students. We do activities in class, so if you cannot participate in class without your technology, you should find another class.

If you are using your phone or computer while in class (unless cleared ahead of time), you may be asked to leave for the rest of the class period. If you are talking while the professor is lecturing or other students are presenting, you may be asked to leave for the remainder of the class period. This is not meant as a punishment; it is meant to ensure the wellbeing of the class as a whole. If you come to class, I expect you will give the class your full attention.

PHONE: I do not check the phone assigned to me, so please see me in class or during office hours for any important issues.

EMAIL: Since this is an in-person class, please talk to me in class or during office hours about anything that has to do with the class, such as assignments or attendance. I cannot respond to the volume of emails I receive, so please reserve email for scheduling time to talk with me or for emergencies that come up in your life.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php)(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

SJSU COUNSELING SERVICES

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](#).

GRADING

| Assignment | Percentage of Final Grade | Percentage | Grade Assigned |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Reading Quizzes | 25 | 100 or higher | A+ |
| In-Class Participation/Film Notes | 15 | 93-99 | A |
| Connection Project | 10 | 90-92 | A- |
| Midterm | 25 | 88-89 | B+ |
| Final Exam | 25 | 83-87 | B |
| TOTAL | 100 | 80-82 | B- |
| | | 78-79 | C+ |
| | | 73-77 | C |
| | | 70-72 | C- |
| | | 68-69 | D+ |
| | | 63-67 | D |
| | | 60-62 | D- |
| | | 59- | F |

Course Schedule

(See Canvas for the most up to date schedule)