COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR’S STATEMENT

This course has two objectives: (i) to introduce the student to the field of study known as the psychology of violence, and (ii) to help build an academic skillset that can be used in this and other university courses. With regard to the first objective, this course introduces students to the psychology of violence by examining the adverse effects of human-perpetrated violence on psychological well-being, mental health and physical health. In addition, the course will examine the impacts of mass violence (or large-scale violence) on groups, whereby entire families and/or communities may be adversely affected. Research approaches used to study the impacts of violence will also be introduced. With regard to the second objective, through learning about the psychology of violence, students will also learn and practice an academic skillset that includes: finding, reading, and analyzing scientific journal articles; improving written communication skills and critical thinking skills; and sharing ideas – a skillset which students can use throughout their undergraduate years and beyond. As part of this first year seminar course experience, this virtual course will be offered online with a blended approach for the fall and winter terms. This means that some classes will be ‘synchronous’ where the instructor and students meet online (at the designated class meeting time) in real-time for discussions and group collaborations. Some work will also be ‘asynchronous,’ where students will complete some class work on their own schedule (but still ensure that their work is meeting course deadlines) and will involve PowerPoint slides (with narration), course readings, and online workshops, for example.

EVALUATION

Course evaluation will consist of written assignments, online workshops, a fall take-home quiz and a winter take-home quiz.
No textbook is required for this course. Other readings (journal articles TBD).