

Carleton University
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Sociology 3160A
Political Violence
Fall 2025

Instructor: Augustine Park
Email: Augustine.Park@carleton.ca

Office hours: By appointment via Zoom.

Pre-Requisite(s): [SOCI 1001](#) and [SOCI 1002](#), or [SOCI 1003](#) [1.0], or [ANTH 1001](#), or [ANTH 1002](#), and third year standing.

Precluded Courses: None.

Method of Delivery: [Online Unscheduled Section](#) **with a SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM**

- Knowledge of the content of this syllabus is your responsibility. This syllabus is subject to minor modification throughout the term at my discretion.
- It is your responsibility to check Brightspace and your Carleton email account regularly and to be aware of announcements relating to the course.

Departmental Statement

The following is a statement created by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology for inclusion in course outlines:
In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behaviour towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

Course Description and Objectives

Sociological examination of political violence. Theoretical analysis of violence as social action that is historically situated and shaped by cultural and economic forces; the relationship between political violence and identity, nation/nationalism, modernity and globalisation.

Content Advisory

Course materials (including lectures, required and recommended media, and other materials) include explicit discussions and graphic images of violence and its aftermath.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you should be able to, in writing:

- Explain key sociological concepts, including modernity, colonialism, race, coloniality, liberalism, capitalism, and nationalism; explain relationships between these concepts; relationships between these concepts and political and state violence.
- Describe a variety of historical and contemporary case studies of political and state violence and apply sociological concepts to analyse them.
- Describe mechanisms to strive for justice for political and state violence and evaluate their strengths and limitations.
- Critically analyse course content to determine one's own perspective on political and state violence in various contexts.
- Facilitate and engage in respectful dialogue with peers on complex issues, which involves both good faith understanding of peers' contributions and offering one's own interpretations and reflections in a productive manner.

Course Readings

Required readings: Course readings are available via Ares.

Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials specifically for this course.

Due to their nature, the assignments in this course do not require citations or bibliographies. However, if students wish to cite texts, the Chicago author-date citation style (17th edition) is to be used. For more information, please see:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html

Course Organisation

To provide course material in an orderly and predictable fashion, this course is organised in weeks. Each topic runs for one week starting on Tuesday at 11:30am till the following Tuesday at 11:29am. Within each week, you should engage with all the lecture videos, assigned media, and other materials for that week. Whenever possible, *you should complete the readings for the week in advance*. There is a discussion forum in which you must participate throughout each week. Completing your readings in advance of the week enables you to participate as soon as the discussion forum questions are posted.

Starting on 9 September, I will release lecture videos, media, and other material (when relevant) every Tuesday around 11:30am.

There will be no material posted for Tuesday 21 October due to Carleton's Fall Break.

Discussion Forum Groups

You will be placed in a Discussion Forum (DF) group in Brightspace. Your group are the people you will be interacting with the most throughout the term. Most importantly, your Discussion Forums (i.e., weekly online discussions) take place within your group.

Treat your group as your mini-community within the course. As online courses can feel alienating for some students, I encourage you to chat with your group members in Brightspace, get to know each other, check in with each other, explore ideas together, and study together.

The groups are organised alphabetically by surname. I may move students between groups at my discretion to address issues that I see arise (e.g., balancing group sizes etc.).

You may not change groups unless there is an issue that cannot be resolved. If issues arise, students are expected first to engage in good faith dialogue with group members to arrive at a resolution among themselves before coming to me.