

**Anthropology 4138-001/6138-001, Fall 2017**  
**The Anthropology of Violence and Non-violence**  
**Instructor: Doug Jones**

**SYLLABUS**

**Content:** This course is about a disturbing topic, violence: assault, murder, rape, infanticide, feuding, war, capital punishment, human sacrifice, state terror, and genocide. But it is also about reconciliation and the avoidance of violence. We begin with individual violence: What are the motives for murder across cultures? Why are men in so many societies ready to risk their lives for intangibles like honor and reputation? What motivates beatings, rapes and murders of women, and the killing of children? We move on to group-against-group violence -- feuding and warfare. How warlike are people in societies without central governments? What makes societies more or less warlike or peaceful? What is the role of war in the rise of the state and in forms of government? How have violent collisions between herders and farmers, and between Western and non-Western societies shaped history? We conclude by looking at collective aggression within groups: How do societies maintain law and order? What are the cultural meanings of human sacrifice and cannibalism? Why are some societies obsessed with punishing witches and other moral outcasts? What are the connections between group persecutions in the anthropological record and in twentieth century history? Throughout the course we will consider how the study of violence and non-violence across cultures can help us to better understand such issues in our own culture.

**Objectives:** Students should learn to

- Describe basic facts about the incidence of violence, including how levels of violent crime have changed over time in the United States, how violence differs between men and women, how violence in humans compares with violence in other species, and how violence has operated in non-state and state societies.
- Explain the role that violence has played in social evolution through history.
- Apply different major theoretical approaches to answer questions about violence, including evolutionary and biosocial theories, culture history, historical dynamics, and political economy.
- Evaluate and synthesize claims about violence, including current controversies, and to learn how to learn more about the topic.

**Where and when:** Business Classroom Building 203, Tuesday and Thursday 12:25-1:45 PM

**Instructor:** Doug Jones

Office hours: 107 Stewart Building, Tuesday 2-3 PM

Don't be shy about dropping by during office hours or scheduling an appointment if you have any questions about course material. Or try e-mail to me (douglas.jones@anthro.utah.edu) if that works better for you. And don't be shy about asking questions in class or after class.

**Reading:** There are 5 required books in this course:

The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined by Steven Pinker (2011) New York: Viking (Penguin). 20.00\$ new, 15.00\$ used, 18.20\$ new rental, 13.05\$ old rental, 13.99\$ Kindle

Homicide by Martin Daly & Margo Wilson (1988) New York: Aldine de Gruyter. 38.35\$ new, 14.98\$ used, 31.69\$ Kindle

War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage by Lawrence H. Keeley (1996) New York: Oxford University Press. 21.30\$ new, 16.00\$ used, 19.44\$ new rental, 13.98\$ used rental, 9.99\$ Kindle

War and Peace and War: The Rise and Fall of Empires by Peter Turchin (2007) Plume. 17.00\$ new, \$12.75\$ used, 16.99\$ Kindle

Envisioning Power: Ideologies of Dominance and Crisis by Eric R. Wolf (1999) Berkeley: University of California. 34.10\$ new, 25.60\$ used, 27.31\$ Kindle

They are available at the University Bookstore (and maybe other bookstores). The Kindle versions are available from Amazon.com. You can download Kindle software to your computer for free if you don't own a Kindle.

There will also be a handful of readings on electronic reserve.

**Grading:** Most weeks you will receive study/discussion questions related to reading assignments for the next week. These are intended to focus your reading and help prepare you for discussion. You will be asked to turn in a short (~1 page) response -- typewritten or NEATLY handwritten -- to the study questions, which will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. You are encouraged to discuss study questions with other students, but the response you turn in must be your own work. Class attendance, participation and completion of occasional in-class assignments can also affect your grade. Weekly assignments plus class attendance, participation and completion of occasional in-class assignments count for about 10% of your grade.

You will be expected to write a 6 to 8 page (2-2,500 word) referenced term paper. The paper will be about a major controversy regarding the anthropology of violence: you will be given a list of suggested topics, or you can pick your own topic in consultation with your instructor. A one page outline, or one paragraph summary of your paper, and a preliminary bibliography, will be due mid November, and will be graded on a Pass/Fail Basis. A one page précis of your paper, and more extensive bibliography, is due late November, and will be given a letter grade. The paper itself is due TBA. The précis will account for just under 5% of your grade, the term paper for just over 15%.

Late stuff will be marked down.

There will be two in-class exams and a final exam in this course. The final will be cumulative. Exams will include both multiple choice/short answer questions and short essays. Each in-class exam will account for about 20% of your grade, the final will account for about 30%.

**Schedule:**

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Numbers after authors' names refer to chapters.

Introduction / One on One

August 22, 24. Introducing a controversial topic; Violence, evolution and culture

Pinker 1

Daly and Wilson 1

August 29, 31. Demonic males? Violence and sex differences

Daly and Wilson 7, 8

September 5, 7. Men of honor, cultures of honor: deterrence, revenge, reputation and reconciliation

Pinker 3: 91-128 (from "Violence in These United States" to end of chapter)

Daly and Wilson 6, 10

September 12, 14. Sexual violence: spouse abuse and rape / Infanticide

Daly and Wilson 9, 3, 4

Gregor (reserve)

Group Against Group

September 19, 21. Animal war? Chimpanzees, bonobos, and others; Tribal war

Pinker 2

Keeley 1, 2, 11

September 26, 28. Tribal war: methods and motives

Keeley 3, 4, 6, 7

**SEPTEMBER 28 EXAM 1**

October 3, 5. Men, women, and war; Explaining war and peace

Keeley 8, 9, 10, 12

Turchin Introduction, 5

**October 8-15 No classes. Enjoy Fall Break!**

October 17, 19. War, states and frontiers: The desert and the sown

Keeley 5

Turchin 1, 2, 4

October 24, 26. War, states and frontiers: The West and the rest

Pinker 5: 189-231 (Beginning of chapter to "The Trajectory of European War")

Turchin 6, 3, 7

All Against One

October 31, November 2. The law of primitive man: group sanctions and capital punishment

Daly and Wilson 11

Wolf 1

November 7, 9. Cosmology, power and violence / Aztecs, sacrifice, and the sacred

Wolf 4

November 14, 16.

Sorcerers, scapegoats and witch-killing

Pinker 4: 134-139 (“Superstitious Killing: Human Sacrifice, Witchcraft, and Blood Libel”)

**November 16 EXAM 2**

November 21. From tribalism to genocide

Smith (reserve)

**November 23-24 No classes. Happy Thanksgiving!**

November 28, 30. War, fear, food and persecution

Wolf 5

December 5, 7. Political religions; The decline of violence

Turchin 12

Wolf 6

Pinker 10

**December 12, Tuesday, FINAL EXAM, 10:30 AM -12:30 PM, same place (208 Stewart)**

## Department and University Policies

**ADA Statement:** The Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

**Addressing Sexual Misconduct:** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

**Wellness Statement:** Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness ([www.wellness.utah.edu](http://www.wellness.utah.edu); 801-581-7776).

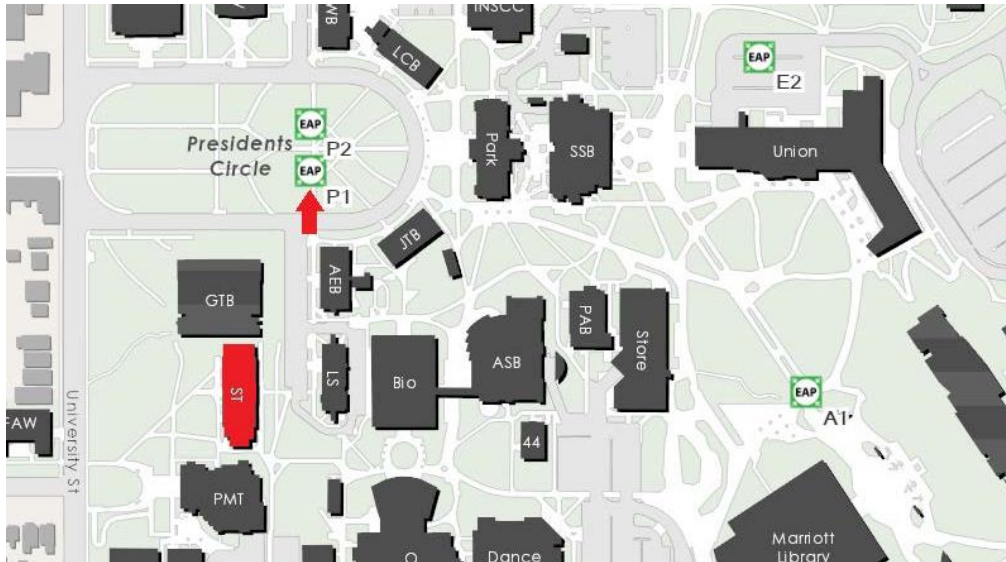
**Student Code: (Policy 6-400)** All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code ([regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php](http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php)). Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in S. II of the Code. The Code also specifies standards of behavior (S. III) and academic conduct (S. V). "Students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating" (S. VB). According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

**Incomplete Policy:** An "I" will only be given for work not completed because of circumstances beyond the student's control, providing the student is passing the course and needs to complete 20% or less of the work. Valid reasons for an "I" grade include: (a) An illness (documented by a medical statement) that precludes the ability of the student to perform; (b) an accident or situation that prevents the student from physically being present (documentation may be required); (c) Extreme emotional or other mental circumstances that are severe enough to interfere with a student's normal academic performance. If you do receive an "I", do not register for the course again. You must

complete the required work in the time agreed by you and the instructor. If the work is not completed within one year, the grade will change to an "E". Faculty will not accept additional work to change the grade after that one-year period. If a student has a problem with the course, please deal with it immediately. It is the student's responsibility to contact instructors and submit necessary forms.

Note: The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.

# CSBS EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



## BUILDING EVACUATION

EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at <http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>.



## CAMPUS RESOURCES

**U HeadsUp App:** There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at [alert.utah.edu/headsup](http://alert.utah.edu/headsup) to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

**Safety Escorts:** For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call 801-585-2677. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.