In the twenty-first century, practices of violence in general, and terrorism and torture in particular occupy most media attention. Why have these phenomena risen to the forefront of public discussion and what can we as a society do about them? This course thus approaches sociologically the three contemporary phenomena of terrorism, torture and violence. It grounds each phenomenon in particular events, analyzing the emergence of the Islamic State (IS) for terrorism; the US Senate Torture Report for torture; and sexual assault in the US for violence. There will be three short examinations (each worth 30% of the total grade) at the end of the discussion of each phenomenon. Participation in class discussion will determine the remaining 10% of the course grade.

The course requirements comprise the following:

I. Three exams at the end of the discussion of each phenomenon (90%): The three examinations will take place on

- 15 October Thursday 2015 in class (30%);
- 12 November Thursday 2015 in class (30%);
- 10 December 2015 Thursday in class (30%).

II. Class participation (10%).

COURSE OUTLINE

September 8 T

Introduction

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: Triangulation of Violent Phenomena

9/10 Th 1. Occurrence/Public Event (Experience)
9/15 T 2. Mediatization/Public Interpretation (Meaning Creation)
9/17 Th 3. Legal Judgment/Public Sanction (Knowledge Production)

TERRORISM:
9/22 T Film on IS terrorism
   Context/History
9/24 Th
9/29 T
10/1 Th       NO CLASS

Instances/Events
10/6 T
10/8 Th

Impact/Consequences
10/13 T
10/15 Th        Short Examination on Terrorism -- in class
10/20 T    FALL BREAK

TORTURE:
10/22 Th    Film on US Torture

Context/History
10/27 T
10/29 Th

Instances/Events
11/3 T
11/5 Th

Impact/Consequences
11/10 T
11/12 Th    Short Examination on Torture -- in class

VIOLENCE:
11/17 T    Film on Sexual Assault

Context/History
11/19 Th
11/24 T
11/26 Th    THANKSGIVING BREAK

Instances/Events
12/1 T
12/3 Th

Impact/Consequences
12/8 T
12/10 Th    Short Examination on Violence -- in class

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COURSE READING OUTLINE

(9/8) T
INTRODUCTION

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: TRIANGULATION

(9/10) Th
1. Occurrence/Public Event


(9/15) T
2. Mediatization/Public Interpretation


(9/17) Th
3. Legal Judgment/Public Sanction


TERRORISM:

(9/22) T Film on Terrorism: IS in Syria and the Levant
“Frontline – Rise of ISIS” (2014) 53 minutes

(9/24) Th Context/History


(9/29) T

(10/1) Th

Instances/Events


(10/6) T


(10/8) Th

Impact/Consequences


(10/13) T


(10/15) Th Short Examination on Terrorism – in class

(10/20) T FALL BREAK

TORTURE:
Film on Torture: US Torture Committed Overseas
“Taxi to the Dark Side” (2007) 75 minutes [48698-D]

Context/History


Instances/Events


Impact/Consequences


Short Examination on Torture – in class
VIOLENCE:

(11/17) T  Film on Violence: Sexual Assault in US Campuses
“The Hunting Ground” (2013) 96 minutes [67458-D]

(11/19) Th  
Context/History


(11/24) T


(11/26) Th  THANKSGIVING RECESS

(12/1) T
Instances/Events


(12/3) Th


Impact/Consequences
(12/8) T
Cares, Alison et al. “Changing Attitudes about Being a Bystander to Violence: Translating an In-Person Sexual Violence Prevention Program to a New Campus.” *Violence against Women* 21/2: 165-87 [22 pp.]


(12/10) Th Short Examination on Violence – in class