Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate: ___X__ NEW  ____ MODIFY  ____ DELETE

Local Unit:  ICAR
Graduate Council Approval Date: 

Course Abbreviation: Approaches to Violence  
Course Number: CONF 729

Full Course Title: Approaches to Violence

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Approaches to Violence

Credit hours:  03  
Program of Record: ICAR

Repeatable for Credit?  ____ D=Yes, not within same term  
____ T=Yes, within the same term  
___ X N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Up to hours

Activity Code (please indicate):  ____ Lecture (LEC)  ____ Lab (LAB)  ____ Recitation (RCT)  
____ Studio (STU)  ____ Internship (INT)  ____ Independent Study (IND)  ____ Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format  3 : 3 :0  
Course Level: GF(500-600)  ____ GA(700+)  ___X__

Maximum Enrollment: 20  
For NEW courses, first term to be offered:

Prerequisites or corequisites: CONF 501 or 801

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses.: The course aims to explore violence from a variety of intellectual and political perspectives. Readings are wide-ranging and interdisciplinary, addressing levels of analysis from the biological to the nation-state and transnational processes.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:

Last term offered: F03  
Previous Course Abbreviation: CONF 695

Description of modification: Change from a Special Topics to a regularly offered course.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:
Submitted by:  Kevin Avruch  
email: kavruch

Department/Program: Sara Cobb  
Date: 11/12/03

College Committee:  
Date:  
Graduate Council Representative:  
Date:  

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Course Coordination Form

Approval from other units:

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit:</th>
<th>Head of Unit’s Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate Council approval: ___________________________ Date: __________

Graduate Council representative: ___________________________ Date: __________

Provost Office representative: ___________________________ Date: __________
CONF 729: APPROACHES TO VIOLENCE

Course Description

This “special topics” course, designated an “experimental course” in the ICAR curriculum, is an opportunity in a seminar setting to explore violence from a variety of intellectual and political perspectives. Readings will be wide-ranging and interdisciplinary in nature, addressing levels of analysis from the biological to the nation-state, and emphasizing an acquaintance with some classics in the field. The assigned readings in the course (as listed below and in the course program) will form the basis for class discussions throughout the term, but all students will be required to choose a topic for their research paper early on and read appropriately on this topic outside class for the paper (more on this below).

Course Requirements

Required Readings:

Allen Feldman, *Formations of Violence: The Narrative of the Body and Political Terror in Northern Ireland*

Debra Niehoff, *The Biology of Violence*

Richard Rhodes, *Why They Kill: The Discoveries of a Maverick Criminologist*

Ervin Staub, *The Roots of Evil: The Origins of Genocide and Other Group Violence*

Manfred Steger and Nancy Lind, eds., *Violence and its Alternatives*

Charles Tilly, *The Politics of Collective Violence*

The main requirement for the class is a research paper on some aspect of violence, from any of the perspectives covered in class--or one that we did not consider. I want the paper to reflect your own research and/or practice interests and therefore I am open to a wide range of topics. You should discuss your topic with me as early as possible, but no later than Week 7 (10/7). The paper is due at the last class session, December 2, 2003.

Course Program

Week 1 (8/26): Course Orientation

Week 2 (9/2): Conceptualizing Violence: Philosophers (& others) Weigh In
Read in Steger & Lind: Arendt, Wolff, Coady, Galtung

Week 3 (9/9): A Biology of Violence-I
Read Niehoff, pp. 1-149

Week 4 (9/16): A Biology of Violence-II
Read Niehoff, pp. 150-296
Week 5 (9/23): Making Violence…
Read Rhodes, pp. 5-174

Week 6 (9/30): …And Violent Individuals
Read Rhodes, pp. 175-323

Week 7 (10/7): Gender and Violence
Read in Steger & Lind: Hartsock, Alder, Renzetti, Dworkin, Jenesky and Seifert

Week 8 (10/14): No Class (Midsemester Recess)

Week 9 (10/21): Race and Violence
Read in Steger & Lind: Fanon, Malcolm X, Nicholson, West, Marable and Barsh

Week 10 (10/28): Narratives of Violence-I: The Body
Read Feldman, pp. 1-146

Week 11 (11/4): Narratives of Violence-II: Political Terror
Read Feldman, pp. 147-269

Week 12 (11/11): Violence as Politics & Ritual-I: Varieties of Violence
Read Tilly, pp. 1-129

Week 13 (11/18): Violence as Politics & Ritual-II: Causes and Consequences
Read Tilly, pp. 130-238

Read Staub, pp. 3-150

Week 15 (12/2): Holocaust and Genocide-II
Read Staub, pp. 151-283; Research/Term paper due