All I ask is that, in the middle of a murderous world, we agree to reflect on murder and to make a choice.

Albert Camus

Introduction
This class charges that governments have been the largest and most efficient at killing human beings throughout history. Unfortunately, this fact is not well known. To rectify this problem, the course is directed toward understanding the different ways that governments kill those that they are responsible for. We will focus on the major methods: genocide/human rights violation, interstate war, counter-insurgency and capital punishment. We will discuss others as well: torture, police brutality, forced famine, slavery and colonialization. Additionally, we will focus on what can be done to eliminate/reduce this problem.

Grading:
Participation: 15%
- contributing to classroom discussion through informed commentary/reflection about reading and/or prior discussion

Individual Assignment: 40%
- one take home examination (25%)
- an undisclosed number of informal quizzes, administered randomly throughout the semester (15%)
  o if a quiz is missed and there is no University sanctioned excuse, then the student will be issued a “0” for the assignment.
  o if missed is missed and there is a University sanctioned excuse, then the student will be given a make-up examination.

Group Assignment: 20%
- all team members must participate, overall product must be divided across team members and all components of the assignment must be submitted in class on the due date

Individual Final Submission: 25%
- Answer one question in a format to be determined.
Required Books:
- *The Killing State: Capital Punishment in Law, Politics and Culture*
- *Agents of Atrocity: Leaders, Followers, and the Violation of Human Rights in Civil War*
- *On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society*
- *The Protection Racket State*

Suggested books:
- *Death by Government*
  Rudy Rummel

What to do with readings/class
Identify type of Violence and address the following:
- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?
- So what?
- Now what?

August
- 24 – Orientation and Introduction
- 29 – Background
  - Does the state have the right to kill? When? Why/Why not?
  - Has the state done this within proscribed parameters?
- 31 – *On Killing* 1-83

September
- 5 – *On Killing* 84-167
- 7 – *On Killing* 168-251
- 12 – *On Killing* 252-332
- 14 – *The Killing State*
- 19 – *The Killing State*
- 21 – *The Killing State*
- 26 – *The Killing State*
- 28 – *The Protection Racket State*

October
- 3 – *The Protection Racket State*
- 5 – *The Protection Racket State*
- 10 – *The Protection Racket State*; Assignment Given for **Individual Assignment**
12 – Discussion & **Individual Assignment Due**
24 – Special Guest: Professor Will Moore - Torture
26 – *Agents of Atrocity*
31 – *Agents of Atrocity*

**November**
2 – Building Awareness
7 – Building Awareness
9 – Building Awareness
14 – Building Awareness; Assignment Given for **Final Project**
16 – Fixing Problems
21 – Fixing Problems
28 – Fixing Problems
30 – Fixing Problems

**December**
5 – Project Presentations
7 – Project Presentations
12 – **Projects Due**