**Violence in America: Review for Midterm Exam**

**Spring 2016**

**Professor James Byrne**

**Exam Date:** Thursday, Feb. 25th, 2016

**Exam Format**: Short answers and essay

**Required Reading**: Text, chapters 1,2,3,4,,9

**Online Resource Links and video profiles of Ted Bundy, Mucko McDermott, Pam smart, Andrea Yates** ( see schedule)

**Sample Short Answer Questions:**

1. Provide a profile of murderers and murder victims in the USA by age, gender and race( see text, ch.4 and lecture)

2. How many homicides occur in the United States each year?What is the clearance rate for homicide? Does it vary by offender-victim relationship? ( see text, ch. 4 and lecture).

3. What is mass murder? Has the frequency of mass murders increased over the past few decades? ( see text, ch.4)

4. What are serial homicides? What percentage of all homicides that occur each year are classified as serial homicides?

5. What are some of the most prevalent myths about serial killers, according to Fox and Levin’s research? (see text, ch. 4)

6. What are the trends in violent crime in the United States? Is this country becoming more or less violent? Which region of the USA has the highest reported rate of violence? Which has the least? ( see lecture and Lynch ppt )

7. What did Ted Bundy say was the single most important factor that led him to become a serial killer? Do you agree with his self-assessment? ( video and interview)

8. Who was Mucko McDermott? What factors appear to be related to his violent crimes? Did drugs play a part here? ( video)

9. Where did the expression” going postal” originate? Are postal workers really more likely to be homicide victims? ( see text, ch.9)

10. Which jobs are the most dangerous? ( see text, ch.9)

11. What is routine activities theory? How can it be used to prevent workplace violence? ( see text, chapter 9).

12. What is the difference between a crime rate and a victimization rate? How are these rates calculated? What is UCR? What is NIBRS? What is NCVS?( text, chapter 2)

13. Where are the most violent cities in the United States? ( global patterns lecture/ppt)

14. Where are the most violent cities globally? ( global patterns lecture/ppt)

15. Which countries are the most violent in the world? Why are they violent? ( global patterns lecture/ppt)

16. How does the USA’s homicide rate compare to other countries around the globe? ( global patterns lecture/ppt)

17. Describe the spree killing case of John Allen Muhammad and Lee Harvey Malvo: why did this particular case cause such fear among the general public? ( text, ch.4)

18. What impact did Prohibition have on the drinking habits of the average American? ( see text, chapter 3).

19. Are health care workers more or less likely to be victims of violent assaults than other workers? (see online reading)

20. Can we accurately predict violent behavior within the subgroup of individuals with mental illness? Where does the use/overuse/misuse of medication fit in? ( Steadman article, and video)

**Sample Essay Questions:**

1. Provide a brief history of violence in the United States, touching on the American revolution, slavery/ civil war, prohibition, and the recent war on drugs . Are we more violent today than at any time in our history?( see text, ch. 3)

2. Provide an analyses of women who have been convicted of homicide, based on your readings, and on your assessment of the following three cases: (1) Andrea Yates, (2) Pam Smart, and (3)Louise Woodward. ( see murder lecture, related video, and text, ch.4)

3. According to Levitt, there are four factors that explain the recent violent crime decline in the United States: 1) Increases in the Number of Police,2) The Rising Prison Population,3) The Receding Crack Epidemic, and 4) The Legalization of Abortion. Is he correct in his assessment both about these four factors and the six he says do not explain violent crime declines in recent years? ( see Levitt article and lecture ppt).

4. Describe the methods we currently use to predict violent crime, and then address Malcolm Gladwell’s assertion that we can NOT provide an accurate profile of a serial killer using current profiling techniques, which have been described by Gladwell and others as “junk science”. ( lecture,online readings and NPR recording)

5. When viewed in a global context, where does the United States rank in terms of violent crime? Which factors appear to offer the best explanations for our global violence problem? ( see lecture ppt., text, chapter 3,and related video)

6. Different theories of crime causation lead to very different strategies of violence prevention and control. How would EACH of the following groups of criminologists explain the violence problem: classical, biological, psychological, and sociological criminologists?