

# MURDER



- What individual characteristics and social circumstances drive people to commit murder?
- Are common assumptions about extreme killers accurate?
- How does society define, respond to, and attempt to prevent murder?

SOC275 will address these key questions while providing students with a broad overview of the crime of murder, the intentional and unjustified killing of one human by another. Although murder draws significant media attention and provides the basis for various forms of entertainment (e.g., horror films, video games), the phenomenon of murder is often poorly understood by the public.

Popular myths about murder will be debunked as students are presented with historical and contemporary research on the prevalence of murder and common characteristics of killers, victims, and the act of murder itself. Students will explore different types of murder including intimate partner murder, family murder, mass and spree murder, serial murder, sexual murder, and gang-related murder. Various theories on the causes of murder from sociological, biological, and psychological perspectives will be introduced and analyzed. Finally, students will be exposed to current murder investigation strategies and evidence of their effectiveness.

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