

CORE 435: I Plead the 2nd! Examining the Role of Gun Violence in the 21st Century

Pre- Assignment

Readings:

Charles, P.J. (2018). *Armed in America: A History of Gun Rights from Colonial Militias to Concealed Carry*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books.

- Chapter 1: “In Guns We Trust”: Bearing Arms in America Today.

Spitzer, R.J. (2018). *The Politics of Gun Control*. 7th Edition. New York, NY: Routledge.

- Chapter 1: Policy Definition and Gun Control

Please note: All the books used in this course are available for purchase in the bookstore. However, I asked the library to purchase a license for the electronic versions of the books. You can access them through the links below at no cost to you.

Confronting Gun Violence in America:

<https://msj.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/collmtjoe-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4682562>

The Politics of Gun Control

<https://msj.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/collmtjoe-ebooks/detail.action?docID=5108802>

Armed in America:

<https://msj.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/collmtjoe-ebooks/detail.action?docID=5890613>

Upon completing the readings, please answer the following questions in paragraph form (minimum of 50 words). Each answer is worth 10 points for a total of 150 points. Please bring a hard copy to our first class.

1. What is your reaction to the “In Guns We Trust” cartoon on page 20 in Charles’ “Armed in America”?

2. What are some of the reactions/criticisms American gun violence receives from European media and how do you explain those?
3. In your opinion, should the Center for Disease Control (CDC) receive federal funds to study gun violence?
4. What is the SHARE Act? Can you envision any problems it might cause?
5. With the lack of Congressional response to gun violence, how have state and local governments reacted?
6. What is the “shooting cycle”?
7. What is your reaction to Wayne LaPierre’s quote “The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun”?
8. Is public support for gun rights more prevalent in certain areas within the United States? How do you explain your answer?
9. What is “armed faith”?
10. Do you envision any problems with the “stand your ground” law? If so, what are they? If not, why not?
11. What is “constitutional carry” and why might some people see it as problematic?
12. According to Spitzer, “why has gun control been such a difficult, controversial, and intractable issue in American politics?”
13. According to Spitzer, what common assumptions do gun control advocates and opponents share?
14. Why were guns important for early settlers in North America and how were they used?
15. According to Spitzer, what were some horrific events involving guns that caused outrage? Was action taken as a result?