This course examines highly racialized police and vigilante killings as one of many violence-centered racial control mechanisms that have been used to subordinate and contain African Americans and other racially oppressed people throughout American history.

Lecture topics include:

- theories of oppression;
- the history of the other violence-centered racial control mechanisms of lynchings and vigilantism, the death penalty, and mass incarceration that enforce the racial control systems of slavery, peonage, Jim Crow, and systemic racism; neo-liberal economics and politics; police and vigilante culture; hyper-masculinity; negative emotions; fatal dominative encounters; technological advances like smart phone cameras, cable TV, and social media that make police and vigilante actions more visible; and movements to make Black lives matter.