

The University of Calgary  
Department of Sociology

**SOCIOLOGY 425.01**  
**Sociology of Violence**  
**Fall 2014 (BLOCK WEEK)**

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Kevin Young
OFFICE / CONTACT:	SS 932 (403-220-6509; kyoung@ucalgary.ca)
OFFICE HOURS:	Wednesday, 4:30-6 p.m. or by appointment
CLASS TIME:	Tuesday Sept. 2-Saturday Sept. 6, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
CLASSROOM:	SS 541
PRE-REQUISITES:	Sociology 313 and 325, or Consent of Department
COURSE OUTLINE:	Students must print their own copy from the Department website

**COURSE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES**

Variably defined and understood, *violence* is attracting more attention than ever before in academic circles as well as in the public arena. It has become a central feature of the 21st century, and students and ordinary citizens are hungry to understand its roots. This course examines these roots.

More specifically, the course is built around 3 principal goals:

- i) to examine and assess the socio-genesis and manifestation of, and resolution to, forms of aggression, violence and victimization;
- ii) to examine and assess the varied ways that forms of aggression, violence and victimization have been explained sociologically; and
- iii) to expand conventional definitions of ‘sports violence’ and move toward a more inclusive -- and *sociological* -- understanding of ‘Sports-Related Violence’.

Essentially, then, this seminar-style and heavily interactive course investigates ‘violence’ using aspects of aggression, violence and victimization related to sport as its substantive focus. It will draw centrally from two literatures: Criminology and Sociology of Sport. The course is intended for senior students with an interest in these two main areas. As a 400-level specialized course, it assumes intimacy with concepts, theories and ideas taught in Sociology 325 (Deviance and Social Control). Substantively, it would also be helpful for students to have taken other 400-level Criminology Concentration classes as well as Sociology 399 (Sport), but these are not essential or required.

**An Important Note on Enrolling in this Block Week Course**

*Block week courses are compact and intense, and students should not enroll frivolously or for the wrong reasons. Along with significant pre-session reading (see Page 4, Reading Assignments), the first assignment (described below) is due on ‘Day 1’, and students are*

*expected to commit fully to the course in order to benefit from it both individually and as a group. For pedagogical reasons, the course is capped at 30.*

### **REQUIRED READING**

The course requires two books. Although in different ways and with different emphases, both aim to explain the roots and manifestations of violence in society:

**Kevin Young (2012). *Sport, Violence and Society*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge.** *This recent publication by the instructor examines what we mean by ‘violence’ and ‘sports violence’ specifically. Adopting a panoramic and global perspective, the book shows how apparently disparate articulations of ‘sports-related violence’ are sociologically connected*

**Steven Pinker (2011). *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence has Declined*. New York: Penguin.** *Pinker’s massively comprehensive and brilliant book brings together a wide range of material on violence as a modern and world-wide cultural problem. It uniquely combines deep historical analysis and comprehensive theoretical discussion with rich empirical description in a global approach. His essential argument, in opposition to populist and often alarmist views, is that, overall, violence has declined.*

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES** (posted by the instructor)

1. A careful and punctual reading of the required material.
2. Regular attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions and questions. (The University of Calgary has no policy of mandatory attendance, but full attendance is required in this Block Week course.)
3. Advance notice to the instructor or the Department of Sociology main office (403-220-6502) if unable to comply with the schedule of assignments. Students who do not provide this advance notice may not be allowed to retake/modify assignments. Also see note on ‘Academic Accommodation’ and ‘Deferrals’ below.
4. Students who are having difficulty with the course are advised to contact the instructor immediately to discuss the situation.
5. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with changes (additions, deletions, shifts) to this outline made in class.
6. Keep this outline. It will be your course reference throughout the term. Most of the questions students ask are answered on it. No hard copies will be provided.

### **EXAMINATION / ASSESSMENT**

Students are examined/assessed in 4 different ways:

1. **Pre-Session Short Essay:** To be submitted at the beginning of the morning session of the first day of classes (**Tuesday, September 2**), students must prepare an answer to a question on a topic central to the course premise (see p. 5, Question & Instructions). **Value 10%.\***
2. **Long Essay:** Approximately two weeks after the end of Block Week (to provide time for absorption and reflection), and representing their overall position on the course content, students must submit a considered 10-page long essay. A detailed instruction sheet containing both the essay question itself and style guidelines will be given to students on ‘Day 1’ and posted on *D2L*. The long essay must be submitted directly to the instructor at his office (SS 932) between 10 a.m.-Noon on **Tuesday, September 23**. **Value: 50%.\***
3. **Group Presentation:** At the end of ‘Day 1’, students will assemble into groups of approximately four to begin to prepare for a presentation that will be made to the class, and discussed by the class, on the final day of Block Week -- Saturday September 6. A detailed instruction sheet will be given to students on ‘Day 1’. Time will be set aside for group presentation preparation daily. The presentation will represent an equal division of labour in all aspects. Since they depend on class enrolment, the exact format and duration of presentations will be decided once enrolment settles, but presentations will be approximately 20 minutes in duration, followed by a question-answer period lasting approximately 10 minutes. **Value: 30%.**

NB: Public speaking is often intimidating; not all people enjoy it. This factor is acknowledged and built in to the allocation of the grade. However, Soci. 425 places emphasis on the creation – by the professor and students alike – of an interactive and respectful classroom climate conducive to listening, learning and critiquing. Students are required to attend and contribute to class discussion and debates. Attendance will be kept, and student involvement noted.

4. **Class Participation:** Since a) 400-level classes in the Department of Sociology are capped to allow students to benefit from a *relatively* ‘small group seminar’ experience, and b) Criminology Concentration classes allow students to critically engage with a specialist sub-topic, a portion of the overall mark will be given to ensuring, in a context of fairness and respect, that the class is fully participatory. **Value: 10%.**

\* In the case of both written assignments, late penalties of 10% per day will apply. It is the responsibility of students, not the professor, to keep a copy of handed-in work.

### **GRADING SCALE**

A+ 95>, A 85-94, A- 80-84  
 B+ 77-79, B 74-76, B- 70-73  
 C+ 67-69, C 64-66, C- 60-63  
 D+ 55-59, D 50-54  
 F <49

Letter grades assigned at the conclusion of the course will be determined by an overall grading schema and letter scale that will be (i) discussed in class and (ii) applied in precisely the same

way to everyone. Grade ‘cut-offs’ will be honoured in every case, including those where students miss the next letter grade by even 0.1%. This is non-negotiable and, in the interests of fairness to everyone, *no exceptions will be made.*

## **CLASS CONTENT**

As summarized in the table below, class content will feature a combination of lectures, group work and discussion, guest speakers and speaker panels, and videos. The exact timing of these activities will vary from day to day.

<b>BLOCK WEEK 2014: SOCIOLOGY 425</b>					
	<b>TUES SEPT 2</b>	<b>WED SEPT 3</b>	<b>THUR SEPT 4</b>	<b>FRI SEPT 5</b>	<b>SAT SEPT 6</b>
<i>9-10:15 am</i>	Introduction to professor & students Course objectives Submit pre-assigned Short Essay (10%)	VAV	SRV (cells 12-18)	Guest panel (TBA)	Group presentations
<i>10:15-10:30</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>				
<i>10:30-12 pm</i>	Violence, Aggression & Victimization (VAV)	VAV	Why SRV is sociological	Guest panel (TBA)	Group presentations
<i>12-1</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>				
<i>1-2:30</i>	VAV	What is Sports-Related Violence? SRV (cells 1-6)	Guest panel (TBA)	Bringing it all together	Group presentations
<i>2:30-2:45</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>				
<i>2:45-3:30</i>	VAV	SRV (cells 7-12)	Guest panel (TBA)	Bringing it all together	Group presentations
<i>3:30-4:30</i>	Daily wrap-up & group activity	Daily wrap-up & group activity	Daily wrap-up & group activity	Daily wrap-up & group activity	Overall wrap-up

## **READING ASSIGNMENTS\***

Because of the compact Block Week format and to facilitate an efficient start, approximately 40% of overall assigned material is to be read in full **before** classes commence. Specifically:

Kevin Young (*Sport, Violence and Society*): Preface, Chapters 1, 4, 6, 8.

Steven Pinker (*The Better Angels of Our Nature*): Chapters 1, 2.

To be read **during** Block Week **and before** Long Essay submission:

Kevin Young (*Sport, Violence and Society*): Chapters 2, 3, 5, 7, Conclusion.

Steven Pinker (*The Better Angels of Our Nature*): Chapters 3, 9, 10.

\* At relevant points during class, students will be given small blocks of time to read sections of assigned material relevant to class that day. As such, students are required to bring both course books with them to class every day. It is expected that students should read one chapter every evening during Block Week.

## **'Short Essay' Question & Instructions**

### Question:

*Using assigned pre-session readings (other Sociology/Criminology sources can be used if desired), explain what 'violence' is and how it is best defined? To what extent does violence intersect with 'aggression' and 'victimization'? Using at least two examples of violence in sport, show how we can adapt what criminologists teach us about aggression, violence and victimization to help us define and understand forms of sports-related violence?*

### Instructions:

- One single page, using one side of paper only, regular 1-inch margins, single-spaced.
- No cover page – student name and number as a header.
- 11 font is the smallest font permitted; any style format.
- Use at least 3 academic sources and cite References at bottom alphabetically.
- Value: 10% of your overall grade.
- Deadline: Tuesday September 2, at the beginning of the morning session.
- Late papers will be deducted 10% (out of 100%) for each day late.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES** (posted by the University)

**Emergency Evacuations:** In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by [*check link to find assembly point for your building:* <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/75>]

**Deferrals:** If possible you must provide *advance* notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or submit an assignment or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

Please note that requests to defer a final examination or to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U of C Calendar. You can find the forms you need online:

*Deferred Final Exam Application:*

[http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf)

*Deferred Term Work Form:*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Faculty of Arts Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre. Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions. To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

**Ethical Research:** Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

**Academic Misconduct:** Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct. Please see:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

**The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)** legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor’s office or the Department main office. Written assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor’s office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

**Safewalk:** The University of Calgary provides a “safe walk” service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

**Academic Accommodation:** Students who require academic accommodation, must register with Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Disability Resource Centre) at MC 452 (or phone 403-220-8237). Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.

***Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades:***

1. When students are unable to submit papers in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor’s office, the department office etc.) Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will be available for pick-up only during the instructor’s office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

***Failing a test and failing the course:*** In order to pass the course a student does **not** have to record a passing grade on all of the assignments.

***Student Representation and Union Ombudsperson Office:*** The 2014-15 Students’ Union VP Academic’s email is: Hana Kadri [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@ucalgary.ca). You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

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