

The University of Calgary  
Department of Sociology

**SOCIOLOGY 425.01**  
**Sociology of Violence**  
**Winter 2014**

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Kevin Young
OFFICE / CONTACT:	SS 932 (403-220-6509; kyoung@ucalgary.ca)
OFFICE HOURS:	Thursday, 9.30 a.m.- 10.30 a.m., or by appointment
CLASS TIME:	Tuesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. (75minutes)
CLASSROOM:	SS 541
PRE-REQUISITE:	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;
- 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.

**REQUIRED READING**

The course requires two books. Although in different ways and with different foci, 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 international 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.*

**Assigned and Additional Readings:** In class, students will be directed to required and preferred readings on a weekly basis. A list of useful ‘Additional Readings’ will also be provided for students.

### **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 attendance is strongly recommended.)
3. Advance notice to the instructor or the Department of Sociology main office (403-220-6502) if unable to comply with the schedule of exams. Students who do not provide this advance notice may not be allowed to retake exams. Also see note on ‘Academic Accommodation’ and ‘Deferrals’ below.
4. Students who are having difficulty with the course are advised to contact the instructor/TA 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.

### **EXAMINATIONS / EVALUATION**

Students are examined / evaluated in 4 different ways:

1. **Short Essay:** To be submitted at approximately the mid-point (**Tuesday, February 25**) and concluding the first phase of the course, students must prepare a ‘short essay’ answer to a question provided early on in the class on a topic central to the course premise. More information and an instruction guide will be provided in class. **Value: 20%\***.

2. **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, 10% of the overall mark will be given to ensuring, in a context of fairness and respect, that the class is fully participatory. **Value: 10%.**

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. Registration will be kept, and student involvement noted.

3. **Group Presentation:** Students will ‘team up’ in groups of approximately 4 to study and prepare for a presentation that will be made to the class, and discussed by the class, on an assigned date during the second half of the semester. 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 30 minutes in duration, followed by a question-answer period lasting approximately the same amount of time. **Value: 30%.**
4. **Long Essay:** At the end of the semester, 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 following the grading of the ‘short essay’. The long essay is due in class (which students must attend punctually and in full) on **Thursday, April 3. Value: 40%\***.

\* In the case of both written submissions, 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 0.1%. This is non-negotiable and, in the interests of fairness to everyone, **no exceptions will be made.**

### **LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

This is designed to be a flexible schedule. When and how certain topics are covered in class may change, and we will complete the following *only* if time allows. Students are strongly advised to attend class to keep informed of any changes that may occur. Video material, which may include content not identified below, will be used to complement lectures where relevant and available.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>READING (TBA)</b>
Wed. Jan. 8	<b>WINTER SESSION CLASSES BEGIN</b>	
Thurs. Jan. 9	Introduction to the course: Objectives, topics, grading & expectations	
Tues. Jan. 14	‘Meet’ the Professor and Students: Why do you/we have an interest in the Sociology of Violence?	
Thurs. Jan. 16	Violence, Aggression and Victimology: Social Scientific Approaches	
Tues. Jan. 21	Violence, Aggression and Victimology (... continued)	
Thurs. Jan. 23	Violence, Aggression and Victimology: Social Scientific Approaches	
Tues. Jan. 28	Violence, Aggression and Victimology (... continued)	
Thurs. Jan. 30	Sports-Related Violence (SRV): Expanding a Subdiscipline’s Terrain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Player violence</li> <li>• Crowd violence</li> <li>• Political violence / terrorism</li> <li>• Fan-player attacks</li> <li>• Player violence away from the game</li> <li>• Males and aggression</li> <li>• Females and aggression</li> <li>• Sexual assault</li> <li>• Partner abuse</li> <li>• Stalking &amp; threat</li> <li>• Coach abuse</li> <li>• Parental abuse</li> <li>• Initiation / hazing</li> <li>• Environmental violence</li> <li>• ‘Blood’ and animal sports</li> <li>• Racism</li> <li>• Violence against sports industry workers</li> </ul>	

- Violence against the environment

Tues. Feb. 4	SRV (... continued)
Thurs. Feb. 6	SRV (... continued)
Tues. Feb. 11	SRV (... continued)
Thurs. Feb. 13	SRV (... continued)
Tues. Feb. 18	<b>READING WEEK: NO CLASS</b>
Thurs. Feb. 20	<b>READING WEEK: NO CLASS</b>
Tues. Feb. 25	SRV (... continued) <b>'SHORT ESSAY' DUE IN (20%)</b>
Thurs. Feb. 27	Student Presentations and Debate
Tues. Mar. 4	Student Presentations and Debate
Thurs. Mar. 6	Student Presentations and Debate
Tues. Mar. 11	Student Presentations and Debate
Thurs. Mar. 13	Student Presentations and Debate
Tues. Mar. 18	Student Presentations and Debate
Thurs. Mar. 20	Student Presentations and Debate
Tues. Mar. 25	Student Presentations and Debate
Thurs. Mar. 27	Student Presentations and Debate
Tues. Ap. 1	Student Presentations and Debate
Thurs. Ap. 3	<b>'LONG ESSAY' DUE IN (40%)</b>
Tues. Ap. 8	TBA
Thurs. Ap. 11	Course review, conclusion, and implications for further study in Criminology / Sociology of Sport
Mon. Ap. 14	<b>WINTER SESSION CLASSES END</b>

### **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.

**Ethics 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.

**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 with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, phone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

***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 Union Ombudsman Office:*** <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

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