



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts

Department of Sociology

Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

SOCI 421

Special Topics in Deviance and Criminology: Indigenous Street Gangs

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| • Winter 2019 Block Week | • Jan 2-8, 9am-4:30pm | • SA 235 |
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Instructor: Robert Henry

Office: SS 912

Email: robert.henry1@ucalgary.ca

Phone: 306 280-1881

Office Hours: 8am-9am

Course Prerequisite

Sociology 325 and 313; or consent of the Department. Sociology 331 and 333 are recommended.

Course Description

This course will examine Canadian and international Indigenous street gangs. Students will consider the historical and societal context within which Indigenous street gangs are produced leading to an increased awareness and understanding of Indigenous youth participation in gangs. Some topics to be covered include: reservation/reserve and urban connections, the intergenerational impacts of the residential/boarding school, gender performance and female gangs/gang members, institutionalized (criminal justice system) interactions, and the impact of prisons on the perpetuation of Indigenous gangs. Course Format: Lectures, assigned readings, group discussions of those readings, guest speakers, videos, and group presentations. Students will also be required to submit short 'Response' papers reference the guest speakers and videos.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Students will explore the push/pull factors and the social determinants that may lead some Indigenous peoples to partake in a gang lifestyle.

Students will critically analyze the impact of intergenerational trauma on Indigenous identity and social position, and how this affects Indigenous gang identity.

Students will create an awareness of the differences and similarities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous gangs in Canada and the United States, and how this is played out through social institutions (i.e. media, systemic oppression)

Students will come to understand the varying prevention, intervention, and suppression programs used to deal with Indigenous street gangs.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

Henry, R. (2013). *Brighter Days Ahead*. Saskatoon: Hear My Heart Books.

All other course readings can be found on the course webpage. Course readings will also be placed on reserve at the library.

Methods of Evaluation

NOTE: Receiving credit in all components of this course is mandatory to obtain a passing grade.

Response Papers: These will be handwritten or typed responses/reactions to the videos, guest speakers and readings. The responses will be used to ascertain any new information learned from each class as well as a way for me to receive feedback regarding the videos, presentations and readings. These responses should also be a critical reflection on previous readings and classes as well as your personal perceptions and changing understandings of Indigenous gangs. They are to be one page in length and include at least one question that you have from the readings. You will need to hand in **3** of these papers. Only papers that focus on the day's readings can be handed in on that day. **You cannot** hand in response papers that have focused on articles that we have previously discussed.

STR8 UP Assignment: The goal of this project is to read the different narratives discussed in *Brighter Days Ahead*. You will choose one or two of the individual's stories and then connect the issues that they discuss in relation to course readings and discussions. The goal of the assignment is to have students relate the narratives of those in the text to course readings and search for similarities and/or differences in the materials. This paper must be 4-5 double-spaced pages in length. **Further to follow on this assignment.**

Assignments	Value (%)	Due Date
Response Papers	15%	Total 3
STR8 UP Assignment	30%	January 9, 2019
Final Paper Abstract	10%	January 6, 2019
Final Paper	40%	January 31, 2019
Class Participation	5%	Ongoing

Final Exam/Paper

There will be no final exam for the class. In lieu of an exam a final paper will be handed in no later than January 31, 2019. This paper will be 15 pages in length that focuses on a topic related to the course. **All**

topics will be approved by the instructor by January 6, 2019. No assignment that has not been approved by the instructor will be accepted as a final paper. This is non-negotiable.

The abstract will be worth 10% of the student's total grade and will be submitted January 6. The instructor will provide feedback with the abstract to the students to help frame their paper. The abstract will be a maximum of one page that will include the paper's thesis statement; the reason for their statement; and a minimum of 5 resources and why they will be focused on.

The final paper will be 15 pages in length, double-spaced, typed in Times New Roman 12 font and will be submitted via drop-box. The paper will focus on topics and lectures in the course that the student wishes to explore in further detail. For example, what is the role of gender in street gang performativity; how does race impact schools' use of zero tolerance creating a school to street gang pipeline; or the lack of definitional validity and the use of *de facto status* in the labeling of street gang members by justice officials. A minimum of 7 course materials are to be used, but students are encouraged to look for outside sources to support their perspectives.

All papers will focus on Indigenous street gangs, or the issues related to Indigenous street gang development either in Canada, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Australia, or the United States.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	95 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90-94.9%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	84-89.9%	3.7	
B+	78-83.9	3.3	
B	73-77.9	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	69-72.9	2.7	
C+	65-68.9	2.3	
C	62-64.9	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 61.99%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Class Schedule

Day	Topic:	Readings:
Jan 2	Colonization/Colonialism History of Street Gangs	White (2008) Freng et al. (2012) Grant (2009) Comack et al. (2013)
Jan 3	STR8 UP Presentation Theories of Street Gangs Formation of Street Gangs on the Prairies	Wood & Alleyne (2010) Fraser (2013) Grekul & LaBoucane-Benson (2008) Spindler & Bouchard (2011)
Jan 4	Formation of Indigenous Street Gangs on the Prairies Trauma and Effects – Colonialism and Boarding/Residential School	Buddle (2011) Comack et al. (2013) Friesen (2015) Video-Wildboyz Bombay et al. (2014) Comack et al. (2013) Video – State as Parent
Jan 7	Indigenous Street Gang Narconomy, Addictions, Mental Health Media and Pop Culture	Buddle (2011) Henry (2013) Richardson et al. (2012) Marsh (2011) Video – Rubble Kings
Jan 8	Masculinity and the Gang Indigenous Women and Gangs Suppression and Indigenous Gangs in Prison	Henry (2015) Comack (2008) Rios (2011) Grekul & LaRoque (2011) Fontaine (2014) Te Rangi (2009) Comack (2012) Brassard and Jacquod (2011) White (2014)

Passing Grades

All assignments must be handed in to pass the class. The overall average must be greater than 50% to receive a 1.0 or minimal pass

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Technology Use

Phones and technology are free to use in the class. However, if it is found that individuals are on apps outside of course designated sites they will be asked to shut down their phones and/or laptops. Due to the nature of the course there will be no taking of photographs during class and posting them on sites outside of the course. If this is found out, legal action will be taken in accordance to university policies.

Email

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line, and include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. All emails violating customary email conventions will be ignored. All other emails will be answered within one business day. I do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will not be answered. Also, please e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office visit, if there is something you want to discuss. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at **Social Science – Food Court**

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Research Ethics

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 Faculty 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

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>.

Deferred Final Exam Form: Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at:

https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

Student Representation

The 2018-19 Students' Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington (suvpaca@ucalgary.ca).

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)