

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology
Sociology 423(L01)-Youth Crime
Course Outline, Fall 2014

Instructor: Steve Dumas	Office: SS904
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Classroom: SH 157	Office Phone: 403-220-3216

Introduction

In objective, subjective, and socially constructed terms, youth crime is an important issue in Canadian society. Youths who engage in serious crime are at a high risk for committing crime in adulthood. Many Canadians believe that convicted juveniles receive lenient punishments and consequently, continue to re-offend. This course will examine how and why young Canadians become involved in crime. Specific attention will be on rates of youth crime, the influence of gangs, substance abuse, sexual exploitation, homelessness, and responses to youth crime. Upon successful completion of this class, students will be able to apply and analyze leading sociological approaches to youth crime, and discern between the objective "facts" surrounding youth crime from it being a socially constructed problem.

Required Texts

The following text is required in this course:

Winterdyk, J. and Smandych, R. (2012). Youth at risk and youth justice: A Canadian overview. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

Evaluation

There are several opportunities for students to capture their grades. The mid-term examination is worth 30% and will be in short answer format. Students will also be expected to lead a group presentation worth 20% after the mid-term. In a nutshell, groups will respond to specific questions about youth crime by incorporating information available in the text as well as other sources. The take home examination is worth 40% of the total grade and is due December 15th unless alternative arrangements are made with the instructor. Class participation will comprise the remaining 10%.

Mid-Term	30%	Oct 14th
Presentation	20%	See schedule
Participation	10%	Ongoing
Take home examination	40%	December 15th

Other Responsibilities of the Student

1. A careful and punctual reading of the required material.
2. Regular attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions and questions.
3. Advanced notice to the instructor if unable to comply with the schedule of assignments due to illness.
4. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with University Regulations covering plagiarism.

Grading Scheme

The following grading scheme will be used in this course.

A+ > 95%	B+ 80%-84.99%	C+ 67%-69.99%	D+ 54%-58.99%
A 90%-94.99%	B 75%-79.99%	C 63%-66.99%	D 50%-53.99%
A- 85%-89.99%	B- 70%-74.99%	C- 59%-62.99%	F <49.99%

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

Reading/Class Schedule

Before reviewing the schedule below, please be aware that it is expected to be flexible. Some topics may require more time than scheduled. Students should ensure that they have completed the readings before each class.

Date	Topic	Chapter to have read
Sept 9	Introduction	None
Sept 11	Trends in youth justice	Chapter 1
Sept 16	Measuring youth crime	Chapter 2
Sept 18	The media	Chapter 5
Sept 23	The YCJA	Chapter 3
Sept 25	Youth justice reform	Chapter 4
Sept 30	New perspectives on crime	Chapter 7
Oct 2	Female youth crime	Chapter 6
Oct 7	Critical criminology	Chapter 8
Oct 9	Review discussion	None
Oct 14	Mid-Term Examination	
Oct 16	Presentation 1 - Substance abuse	Chapter 9
Oct 21	Substance abuse	Chapter 9
Oct 23	Presentation 2 - Street youth	Chapter 12
Oct 28		Chapter 12
Oct 30	Presentation 3 - Gangs	Chapter 11
Nov 4		Chapter 11
Nov 6	Presentation 4 - Aboriginal youth	Chapter 10
Nov 13		Chapter 10

Nov 18	Presentation 5 - Sexual exploitation of young men	Chapter 13
Nov 20		Chapter 13
Nov 25	Presentation 6 - The Quebec model	Chapter 14
Nov 27		Chapter 14
Dec 2	Presentation 7 - Restorative justice	Chapter 15
Dec 4	Conclusion	None

Other Administrative Information

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by *Education Block - Food Court*.

Deferrals

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in 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 Department of Sociology.

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 about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/DFE%20F&W.pdf>

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.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).

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.