

Sociology 423: The Sociology of Youth Crime

Fall 2015

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908 Social Sciences

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Course Objectives: This course concerns the history, etiology, and control of youth crime (or "juvenile delinquency") in Canada and around the world. We will address definitions of "juvenile delinquency" in historical, cultural, and legal context, the extent of youth crime, theories of juvenile delinquency, the system of youth justice, empirical investigations of gangs and of girls' delinquency, and finally, policies and program evaluation for the treatment and prevention of youth crime.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, students will be able to relate the history of the "juvenile delinquent" and "young offender" categories in Canada and to describe and understand the legal regimes relevant to those categories, to apply sociological theories to both the phenomenon of youth crime per se as well as to the cultural and rhetorical displays and understandings concerning it, to describe the formal nature of youth justice processing in Canada, and to apply methods of sociological research to gather original data concerning cultural representations of youth crime, to analyze them qualitatively and quantitatively, and to report those findings both as both written reports and oral presentations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings

There are three books required for this course, all available in the University Bookstore:

Bell, Sandra. 2014. *Young Offenders and Juvenile Justice: A Century after the Fact*, 5th edition. Toronto: ITP Nelson ("SB" in the syllabus)

Lundman, Richard. 2001. *Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency*. Third Edition. New York: Oxford ("RL" in the syllabus)

Schissel, Bernard. 2006. *STILL Blaming Children: Youth Conduct and the Politics of Child Hating*. Halifax: Fernwood ("BS" in the syllabus)

I will be sending additional readings as links or as PDF attachments to students via D2L. Details concerning additional readings will be announced as the term progresses.

Term Work

Term work will consist of a book review, (15%) one midterm test (30%), an in-class presentation (15%), and a term paper (40%).

Your “Book Review” will entail responses to one or more questions that you will be assigned concerning the Schissel monograph. It is due on Thursday, October 15. The paper should not exceed 500 words, or about two typed, double-spaced pages. It will be marked as per my standards for all papers (including the term paper), which will be addressed via D2L.

The midterm test will take place in class on Tuesday, November 17. It will comprise three short essay questions. By November 10 I will post a study guide for it to D2L. The study guide will consist of questions from which the test items will be drawn.

Every student will give an oral presentation of not more than 10 minutes on his or her term paper topic. This exercise will constitute the In-Class Presentation portion of the course. I will discuss my expectations with respect to these in lecture as the dates for them draw nearer. Note that your attendance at all presentations is expected. Presentations are NOT group projects. At six or seven presentations per lecture, we will require six 75-minute lecture days for them. I will assign dates for these presentations at random, unless students wish to volunteer for early dates. Presentations will begin on Thursday, November 19 and run through the end of the semester.

Your Term Paper is due on the last day of class, December 8. The term paper will be an independently-produced manuscript concerning a project of original research that will be assigned around the middle of the semester. The term paper should not exceed eight typed, double-spaced pages, not counting tables, endnotes or list of cited sources if used. The paper will be graded as per the standards that I discuss in lecture. These standards include considerations of sociological acumen, argument and reasoning as well as organization, grammar, spelling and style. Please note that the mark you receive on your presentation does not guarantee, in a good or a bad sense, the mark you receive on the term paper.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A+ 96-100

A 90-95

A- 85-89

B+ 80-84

B 74-79

B- 70-73

C+ 67-69

C 63-66

C- 60-62

D 50-59

F 0-49

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Required Readings

Please note that I have not assigned dates to these topics since I cannot know precisely when I will arrive at a specific topic. I will endeavour to apprise students "where we are" and what topics will be addressed on the tests.

1. Introduction: Film, Children Underground

Readings: None

2. Historical Considerations: The Discovery of Adolescence

Readings: SB, ch. 1

3. The Facts: The Incidence of Youth Crime and Public Perceptions of Youth Crime

Readings: SB, ch. 3; BS, chs. 1 and 6

4. Theorising Youth Crime

Readings: Bell, chs. 5 and 6

5. Contexts of Youth Crime: Family, Peers, Schools

Readings: SB, ch. 7

6. Gangs and Other Youth-Related Congregate Crime

Readings: TBA

7. Girls' Delinquency

Readings: TBA

8. The Juvenile Justice System in Canada I: The JDA, YOA and YCJA

Readings: SB, ch. 2

9. The Juvenile Justice System in Canada II: Policing

Readings: SB, ch. 8

10. The Juvenile Justice System in Canada III: Courts

Readings: SB, ch. 9

11. The Juvenile Justice System in Canada IV: Corrections

Readings: SB, ch. 10

12. Community-based Approaches

Readings: "Community' Organizing," manuscript distributed via D2L.

13. What Works? Program Evaluations and Critiques

Readings: RL. You should endeavour to read the entire book but I will recommend some chapters to pay closer attention to.

POLICIES

Policy on Grade Reappraisal

Within one week of the day on which 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 on that basis. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Policy on Missed Term Work

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments 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 health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment 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/Sp_Su_DFE_App.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).

I expect that every student will complete all work for course but recognise that emergencies might prevent this. My policy on missed work varies with the assignment:

1. If you miss the midterm test due to unforeseeable OR foreseeable emergencies or other circumstances, you will write the midterm in a make-up session as per department practices.
2. Late written work will be assigned a penalty of five percent per day; in other words, a paper submitted two days late that would have received an 80 will instead receive a 70.
3. If you must be absent for your presentation date, I will give credit without penalty if and only if rescheduling is possible. If rescheduling is not possible, which is likely, I will have to assign a zero for that assignment.

Student Representation

The 2015-16 Students' Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: 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, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and 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>

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point, which is the Professional Faculties Food Court for Social Sciences occupants. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Policy on Retrieving Assignments

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice having students retrieve assignments from a public place, eg, outside the instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments must be returned to students, individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up their assignment from the instructor, they may

provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Policy on 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-2-1.html>

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 seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services ; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at
http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf