

**The University of Calgary**  
**Faculty of Arts**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 423(L01)-Youth Crime**  
**Course Outline, Winter 2016**

---

**Instructor: Steve Dumas**

**Office: SS904**

**Email: [sfdumas@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sfdumas@ucalgary.ca)**

**Office Hours: F 11:00am-11:50am  
F 1:00am-1:50pm or by  
appointment**

**Classroom: CHF 214**

**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.

### **Objectives**

- To identify key trends in youth crime.
- To explain the effects of media upon thinking about youth crime.
- To explain the key components of the Youth Criminal Justice Act.
- To summarize major theories on youth crime.
- To identify and evaluate important changes to the treatment of criminal youth.

### **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 final examination is worth 40% of the total grade. Class participation will comprise the remaining 10%.

Mid-Term	30%	Mar 7
Presentation	20%	See schedule
Participation	10%	Ongoing
Take home examination	40%	TBA

### 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
Jan 11	Introduction	None
Jan 13	Trends in youth justice	Chapter 1
Jan 15	Measuring youth crime	Chapter 2
Jan 18	Measuring youth crime	
Jan 20	The media	Chapter 5
Jan 22	The media	
Jan 25	The YCJA	Chapter 3
Jan 27	The YCJA	
Jan 29	Youth justice reform	Chapter 4
Feb 1	Youth justice reform	
Feb 3	Youth justice reform	
Feb 5	New perspectives on crime	Chapter 7
Feb 8	New perspectives on crime	
Feb 10	New perspectives on crime	
Feb 12	Female youth crime	Chapter 6

Feb 22	Female youth crime	
Feb 24	Female youth crime	
Feb 26	Critical criminology	Chapter 8
Feb 29	Critical criminology	
Mar 2	Critical criminology	
Mar 4	Review discussion	None
Mar 7	<b>Mid-Term Examination</b>	None
Mar 9	Presentation 1 - Substance abuse	Chapter 9
Mar 11	Review	
Mar 14	Presentation 2 - Street youth	Chapter 12
Mar 16	Review	
Mar 18	Presentation 3 - Gangs	Chapter 11
Mar 21	Review	
Mar 23	Presentation 4 - Aboriginal youth	Chapter 10
Mar 28	Review	
Mar 30	Presentation 5 - Sexual exploitation of young men	Chapter 13
Apr 1	Review	
Apr 4	Presentation 6 - The Quebec model	Chapter 14
Apr 6	Review	
Apr 8	Presentation 7 - Restorative justice	Chapter 15
Apr 11	Review	
Apr 13	Conclusion	None

### **Grade Reappraisal**

Within two weeks of the date of the return of the exam, students seeking reappraisal may submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of the mark. The instructor will reconsider the assigned grade and book a time to meet with the student. A re-assessed grade may be increased, decreased, or remain the same.

### **Technology Use**

Electronic devices are common in Canadian classrooms. While they can be very effective in assisting students in the learning process, they can also be very distracting if not used properly. Students are encouraged to reflect on how their use of electronic devices affects their learning and how it affects others around them.

### **Email**

Electronic mail is a convenient way for students to communicate with professors. If not used properly, however, email use can become problematic. Before sending an email, please attempt to obtain information from the course outline. Please email me for administrative purposes only, for example, to set up an appointment. Please do not use email as a substitute for an office visit. Questions regarding course content, student

challenges, grades, or other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.

### **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.

### **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 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-2-1.html>

### **Deferrals**

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](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).

### **Student Representation**

The 2015-16 Students' Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@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>

### **Emergency Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at **Professional Faculties Food Court**. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **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 living with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)