



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
FACULTY OF ARTS

SOCI 423 L01
The Sociology of Youth Crime
Winter 2017

INSTRUCTOR: Kirsten Kramar

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OFFICE HOURS: W/TH 12:30-1:30 (by appointment)

COURSE DAY/TIME: T/TH 11:00-12:15

COURSE LOCATION: SH 280

D2L NAME: The Sociology of Youth Crime

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Explanations of the criminal activities of young people including an assessment of treatment strategies and legal regimes developed in response to this behaviour.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This section of SOCI 423 is a lecture-based course. This course is designed to provide students with a detailed understanding of the history and development of issues surrounding youth crime and deviance, the regulation of youth and the treatment of young offenders in the criminal justice system. The course will cover topics including: historical perspectives on changing role of children and youth in Canadian society; legislation dealing with young offenders (JDA, YOA, YCJA); young offenders and their representation in the media; current research and statistical data on the nature and extent of youth crime and violence; youth crime prevention, and the treatment of young offenders in the Canadian criminal justice system.

Attendance is not mandatory. However, students who do not attend the lectures will be ill-prepared for the exams. In the past, students who did not attend lectures did very poorly in the course.

Students should expect to spend one or two hours preparing for each class session by reading the assigned materials. All materials are required readings. Depending on the quality of the class notes taken, students may expect to spend another two to four hours preparing for the mid-term examination and then again for the final examination.

OTHER EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to arrive on time and having already read the readings for the week. The course moves quickly through a great deal of material.

To ensure the best learning environment for all students, students are asked to avoid use of laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Students who require the use of electronic devices for academic accommodation purposes are exempt from this policy. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated. Please no eating during class.

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number – SOCI 423 – **in your email's subject line. 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. Also, unless otherwise instructed, 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.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to engage with issues that are integral to the sociological study of youth crime and justice. Through the process of our collaborative engagement with history, trends, and legislation in part one, theories and perspectives in part two, and selected problems in part three both student and teacher embark on a voyage of intellectual experimentation, dialogue and discovery. Thus, our objective is shared: the outcomes unpredictable. My ambition is to contribute to **your development as 'engaged citizens' by deepening your liberal arts education during lectures, assigned readings, critical reflection, discussion, and through my evaluation of your written work including independent research and writing about the issue of youth crime and justice.**

LEARNING RESOURCES

The following textbook has most of the required readings and can be found in the University of Calgary Bookstore (www.calgarybookstore.ca):

Winterdyk, John & Russell Smandych (Eds) 2016. *Youth at Risk and Youth Justice: A Canadian Overview (2nd Ed)*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press. Other required readings are available on the D2L site for the course.

If you need help accessing or using D2L, please visit the Desire2Learn resource page for students: <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/>.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

1. Mid-term examination

Value: 30%

Date, time and location: February 16, 2017 in class

Length: One (1) hour

Type: Closed-book, in class, invigilated

Description: Written answers.

Associated learning outcomes: Ability to demonstrate knowledge of youth crime legislative history and trends. Identify, compare, and contrast, theoretical perspectives aimed at understanding patterns and trends in youth justice.

2. Youth Court Observation Project (subject to Departmental approval)

Written Component Value: 30%

Oral Presentation Value: 10%

Due Date: March 31, 2017

Type: A short 5- to 10-minute oral presentation graded in part on the quality of the oral presentation. The written component will be graded in part on the quality of writing.

Description: Details of the assignment will be distributed separately.

Submission instructions: Please upload a PDF of your assignment to the D2L dropbox for the course.

Late paper policy: At the discretion of the instructor, late papers may be penalized five points per day late. Papers late by more than seven (7) days will

receive a zero grade.

Associated learning outcomes: Students should be able to analyze youth court proceedings in depth, understanding the nature of the court proceedings (charge(s), and disposition if any, bail hearing, set date, breach of conditions etc.) the demographic characteristics of the young offenders (age, gender, race/ethnicity, family situation (for example is the youth in the care of the state, live on- or off-reserve, homeless, middle- or upper-class?), and bio-psycho-social assessments (if any). Both the oral and written component allow students to develop their writing and oral presentation skills and to demonstrate their ability to synthesize and analyze their observations in relation to the course materials.

3. Final examination

Value: 30%

Date, time and location: As scheduled by the Registrar

Length: Two hours

Type: Closed-book, invigilated

Description: Essay format.

Associated learning outcomes: Ability to demonstrate knowledge of the issues that affect **at-risk youth in Canada, including patterns and trends in girls'** offending, Aboriginal youth crime, gang- and street-involved youth, sexual exploitation of youth, the linkages between substance abuse and crime as well as alternative approaches to youth crime and justice using a comparative analysis of some unique approaches to keeping young offenders out of the criminal justice system.

GRADE SCALE

The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

Students whose work falls in the A range provide strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Students whose work falls in the B range provide evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Students whose work falls in the C range provide evidence they are profiting from their university experience; understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems covered in the course material.

Students whose work falls in the D range provide some evidence of familiarity with subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed.

Students whose work falls in the F range provide little evidence of even superficial understanding of subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; with limited or irrelevant use of literature.

OTHER POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Grade reappraisals

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 (why you believe an error in grading has been made)**. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. I am more than willing to formally or informally review grades assigned and have no particular desire to give anyone a bad grade. It should be noted that a reconsidered mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Absence from Mid Term Examination

Students who are absent from the mid-term examination for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness with the appropriate documentation) are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of Final Examination

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 the student does not show that just cause.

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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

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).

Formal Academic Appeals

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor (see grade reappraisals, above). If this does not resolve the matter, the student can then proceed with an academic appeal. The first in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head.

University Regulations

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html>.

Academic Accommodation

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical

condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (MC 293, phone 403-220-8237) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>. Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.

Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)

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.

Any uncollected assignments and tests will be destroyed after three months; final examinations are destroyed after one year. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in the designated assembly point. For this course the assembly point is

the Education Block - food court.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Student Representation

The 2016-**17 Students' Union** VP Academic is Alicia Lunz (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>

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.**

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.