



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Fall 2020

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE TITLE: The Sociology of Violence			
Course Number	SOC 425		
Pre/Co-Requisites	Sociology 313 and 325; or consent of the Department		
Instructor Name	Nestar Russell	Email:	nestar.russell@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	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 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 to 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.		
Office Location	Remote	Office Hours:	By appointment only
Telephone No.	Email only		
Class Dates	Wednesday, September 9–Wednesday December 9		
Class Times	Recorded lectures, PowerPoint slides and documentary links will be posted on D2L (Mondays and Wednesdays around 4pm).		
Class Location	Online		

Course Description

This course sets out by presenting and critically evaluating a variety of popular theories on the causes and control of violence in modern society. After this theoretical survey, the course then undertakes a rather in-depth exploration into the topic of violence and Norbert Elias's Figural Sociology, where evolving networks of interdependent humans are the central unit of investigation. According to Canadian scholar Steven Pinker (2011: 59), Elias is perhaps "the most important thinker you have never heard of..." Elias's approach to "doing sociology" is somewhat unusual because, like some Classical sociologists, he utilizes a more long-term 'historical' methodological approach to better understanding contemporary society. Also, instead of solely focusing on "criminal" acts of violence, somewhat unusual

is that Elias's theoretical lens confronts (instead of avoids) the so-called illegitimate/legitimate violence divide. Students are to be warned that lectures in this course occasionally explore graphic and violent themes that some may find disturbing.

Course Objectives

- Undertake a largely but not exclusively sociological survey of a wide variety of theories on the topic of violence.
- Gain a long-term historical perspective on the issue of violence in modern society.
- Develop a theoretically informed view on a variety of violence-related subtopics, including homicide, issues of masculinity, organizational malevolence, intimate partner violence, warfare, and genocide (among others).

Course Format

This course will be asynchronous. Twice a week—approximately 4pm on Mondays and Wednesdays—recorded lectures will be posted on a platform that students can download and then watch. Accompanying these lectures will be PowerPoint lecture slides (further details forthcoming).

Learning Resources

Required textbook: Ray, L. (2018). *Violence and society (2nd Ed.)*. London: Sage. ISBN: 978-1-4739-0791-1

Additional non-required reading: Spierenburg, P. (2011). *A history of murder: Personal violence in Europe from the Middle Ages to the present*. Cambridge, UK: Polity. ISBN: 978-0-7456-4378

Impromptu readings may be added.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online remote courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

- Lecture 1 – Wed. Sept. 9: Course overview
- Lecture 2— Mon. Sept. 14: Discussion on final essay project (creativity) and definitional issues on the topic of violence
- Lecture 3— Wed. Sept. 16: Common theories of violence (part 1)
- Lecture 4— Mon. Sept. 21: Common theories of violence (part 2)
- Lecture 5— Wed. Sept. 23: Documentaries
- Lecture 6— Mon. Sept. 28: Common theories of violence (part 3)
- Lecture 7— Wed. Sept. 30: Theories on organisational violence (part 1)
- Lecture 8— Mon. Oct. 5: Organizational Violence (part 2), Hobbes versus Locke (Chapter 2 of textbook), and finally, tips/guidance on First Short Answer Test (**submit your Participation Assignment**).
- Lecture 9— Wed. Oct. 7: Violence and the long view: Hunter-gather versus agricultural societies
- Mon. Oct. 12: Thanksgiving*
- Lecture 10— Wed. Oct. 14: **First Multiple Choice Test**
- Lecture 11— Mon. Oct. 19: Civilizing Process (part 1)
- Lecture 12— Wed. Oct. 21: Civilizing Process (part 2)
- Lecture 13— Mon. Oct 26: Violence and Figurational Sociology (part 1)
- Lecture 14— Wed. Oct. 28: Violence and Figurational Sociology (part 2)

Lecture 15— Mon. Nov. 2: Violence and Figurational Sociology (part 3)

Lecture 16— Wed. Nov. 4: Violence and Figurational Sociology (part 4)

TERM BREAK 8-14 Nov.

Lecture 17— Mon. Nov 16: Discussion on the Final Essay and Second Short Answer Test review.

Lecture 18— Wed. Nov 18: **Second Multiple Choice Test**

Lecture 19— Mon. Nov. 23: Documentary

Lecture 20— Wed. Nov 25: Documentary analysis

Lecture 21— Mon. Nov. 30: Model answers for First and Second Short Answer Tests

Lecture 22— Wed. Dec. 2: Documentary

Lecture 23— Mon. Dec. 7: Documentary analysis

Lecture 24— Wed. Dec. 9: Course review (**Final essay due 5pm**)

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

- **Participation Assignment:** In this course students will be required to submit a participation assignment. This assignment is to be emailed to nestar.russell@ucalgary.ca More specific details on this assignment will be provided. Due date: **12pm Monday October 5 (worth 10% of the final grade)**.
- **First Multiple-Choice Test: Wednesday 14 October.** The test will be on Lectures 2-8 and Chapters “Introduction, 1, 2, (pp. 1-48) and 4 (pp. 71-89) in the textbook (**worth 15% of the final grade**). **Within a 24-hour window**, the time period for this test is 40 minutes (but since it will be **a remote D2L test**, university regulations stipulate that students be provided with 50% extra time). Therefore, **students will have 60 minutes to complete this test**. A computer with a supported operating system and broadband internet connection will be required to complete this test.

- Second Multiple-Choice Test: **Wednesday 18 November**. The test will be on Lectures 9, 11-16 and Chapters 3 (pp. 49-70) and 5-11 (pp. 90-238) in the textbook (**worth 30%** of the final grade). **Within a 24-hour window**, the time period for this test is 80 minutes or 1 hour and 20 minutes. But since it will be a **remote D2L test**, university regulations stipulate that students be provided with 50% extra time. Therefore, **students will have 120 minutes or 2 hours to complete this test**. A computer with a supported operating system and broadband internet connection will be required to complete this test.
- Final Essay: Students must write an essay no longer than 1,200 words in length, excluding references (**worth 45%** of the final grade). More specific details on this essay topic will be forthcoming. The due date of this piece of assessment is **5pm Wednesday 9 December**.

Final Exam Information

No final exam.

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+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

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.

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 requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at:

<https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/deferral-of-term-work-2020.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

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.

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 can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary
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.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of

textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Recording of Lectures

Note that the audio or video recording of lectures and taking screenshots of PowerPoint slides during the lecture are not permitted without explicit authorization. The non-authorized media recording of lectures is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and may result in discipline in accordance with the Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure. For more information click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

Sharing of Lecture Notes and Exam Questions

Note that publicly sharing lectures notes and exam questions on 3rd party sites such as OneClass, StudyBlue, Quizlet, Course Hero, etc. is not permitted. If you wish to use these helpful studying tools, make sure you adjust your privacy settings accordingly. Any violations are subject to investigation under the UofC Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy. For more information, click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

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.html>

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.pdf>

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

Libraries & Cultural Resources

To contact your librarian or find out about the resources and services available to sociology students go to the Sociology Library guide: <https://library.ucalgary.ca/guides/sociology>

To access the main Library website go to: <https://library.ucalgary.ca>

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca.

Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here:

<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca>.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

<https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points>

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.