



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology
Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

Sociology 425.01 SOCIOLOGY OF VIOLENCE Winter 2019

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Young
Classroom: SA 235
Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 3:30pm (75 minutes)
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Office Hours: Thursday 4:45-6pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Variably defined and interpreted, *violence* is attracting more attention than ever before in academic circles as well as in the public arena. It has become a central feature and discussion point of the 21st century, and people on and off campus are hungry to understand its roots. This course examines these roots.

More specifically, the course is built around three principal goals:

- i) to examine and assess the socio-genesis and manifestation of, and resolution to, forms of aggression, violence and victimization;
- ii) to examine and assess the varied ways that forms of aggression, violence and victimization have been explained sociologically;
- iii) to expand conventional definitions of 'sports violence' and move toward a more inclusive -- and *sociological* -- understanding of 'Sports-Related Violence'.

In brief, this seminar-style and heavily interactive course investigates *violence* using aspects of aggression, violence and victimization related to sport as its substantive focus. It will draw

centrally from two literatures: Criminology and Sociology of Sport. The course is intended for senior students with an interest in these two main areas. As a 400-level specialized course, it assumes intimacy with concepts, theories and ideas taught in Sociology 325 (*Deviance and Social Control*). Substantively, it would also be helpful for students to have taken other 400-level Criminology Concentration classes as well as Sociology 399 (*Sociology of Sport*), but these are not essential or required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to, and encourage an understanding of, the sociology of violence, especially as it pertains to aspects of aggression, violence and victimization in and around sport. Thus, the central teaching and learning goals for students are to:

- Become familiar with a variety of current topics and empirical studies of issues related to violence in sport.
- Critically read, analyze, and discuss theoretical and empirical literature on the sociology of violence related to sport.
- Discuss and apply course material to real life examples and experiences of aggression, violence and victimization related to sport.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READINGS

The course requires two books. Although in different ways and with different foci, both aim to explain the roots and manifestations of violence in society:

Kevin Young (2012). *Sport, Violence and Society*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge. *This publication by the instructor examines what we mean by ‘violence’ and ‘sports violence’ specifically. Adopting a panoramic and global perspective, the book shows how apparently disparate articulations of ‘sports-related violence’ are sociologically connected.*

Steven Pinker (2011). *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence has Declined*. New York: Penguin. *Pinker’s massively comprehensive, and brilliant, book brings together a wide range of material on violence as a modern and international cultural problem. It uniquely combines deep historical analysis and comprehensive theoretical discussion with rich empirical description in a global approach. His essential argument, in opposition to populist and often alarmist views, is that, overall, violence has declined.*

Additional Readings: In class, students will be directed to required and preferred readings on a regular basis. Useful ‘Additional Readings’ will also be provided for students once they have decided on their ‘long essay’ topics.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Students are examined / evaluated in four different ways:

1. **Short Essay:** To be submitted at approximately the mid-point (**Tuesday, February 26**) and concluding the first phase of the course, students must prepare a 'short essay' answer to a question provided early on in the class on a topic central to the course premise. More information and an instruction guide will be provided in class. **Value: 20%***.
2. **Class Participation:** Since a) 400-level classes in the Department of Sociology are capped to allow students to benefit from a *relatively* 'small group seminar' experience, and b) Criminology Concentration classes allow students to critically engage with a specialist sub-topic, 10% of the overall mark will be given to ensuring that the class is fully participatory. More details on grading criteria will be provided in class. **Value: 10%.**

NB: Public speaking is often intimidating; not all people enjoy it. This factor is acknowledged and built in to the allocation of the grade. However, Soci. 425 places emphasis on the creation – by the professor and students alike – of an interactive and respectful classroom climate conducive to listening, learning and critiquing. Students are required to attend and contribute to class discussion and debates. Registration will be kept, and student involvement noted.

3. **Group Presentation:** Students will 'team up' in groups of approximately four to study and prepare for a presentation that will be made to the class, and discussed by the class, on an assigned date during the second half of the semester. The presentation will represent an equal division of labour in all aspects. Since they depend on class enrolment, the exact format and duration of presentations will be decided once enrolment settles, but presentations will be approximately 30 minutes in duration, followed by a question-answer period lasting approximately the same amount of time. **Value: 30%.**
4. **Long Essay:** At the end of the semester, and representing their overall position on the course content, students must submit a considered 10-page 'long essay'. A detailed instruction sheet containing both the essay question itself and style guidelines will be given to students following the grading of the 'short essay'. The long essay is due in class (which students must attend punctually and in full) on **Tuesday April 9. Value: 40%***.

* In the case of both written submissions, late penalties of 10% per day will apply. It is the responsibility of students, not the professor, to keep a copy of handed-in work.

FINAL EXAM INFORMATION

There is no final examination per se for this course.

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+	95%>	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	85-94%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	80-84%	3.7	
B+	77-79%	3.3	
B	74-76%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70-73%	2.7	
C+	67-69%	2.3	
C	64-66%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	60-63%	1.7	
D+	55-59%	1.3	
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<49%	0	unsatisfactory performance

Letter grades assigned at the conclusion of the course will be determined by an overall grading schema and letter scale that will be (i) discussed in class and (ii) applied in precisely the same way to everyone. Grade ‘cut-offs’ will be honoured in every case, including those where students miss the next letter grade by 0.1%. This is non-negotiable and, in the interests of fairness to everyone, *no exceptions will be made.*

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

This is designed to be a flexible schedule. When and how certain topics are covered in class may change, and we will complete the following *only* if time allows. Students are strongly advised to attend class to keep informed of any changes that may occur. Video material, which may include content not identified below, will be used to complement lectures where relevant and available.

DATE	SUBJECT	READING (TBA)
Thurs. Jan. 10	WINTER SESSION 2019 CLASSES BEGIN Introduction to the course: Objectives, topics, grading, expectations	
Tues. Jan. 15	‘Meet’ the Prof/Students: Why/how an interest in Soc of Violence?	

Thurs. Jan. 17	Violence, Aggression and Victimization: Social Scientific Approaches
Tues. Jan. 22	Violence, Aggression and Victimization (... continued)
Thurs. Jan. 24	Violence, Aggression and Victimization (... continued)
Tues. Jan. 29	Violence, Aggression and Victimization (... continued)
Thurs. Jan. 31	Violence, Aggression and Victimization (... continued)
Tues. Feb. 5	Sports-Related Violence (SRV): Expanding a Subdiscipline's Terrain
Thurs. Feb. 7	SRV (... continued)
Tues. Feb. 12	SRV (... continued)
Thurs. Feb. 14	SRV (... continued)
Tues. Feb. 19	READING WEEK: NO CLASS
Thurs. Feb. 21	READING WEEK: NO CLASS
Tues. Feb. 26	SRV (... continued) 'SHORT ESSAY' DUE IN (20%)
Thurs. Feb. 28	Student Presentations and Debate
Tues. Mar. 5	Student Presentations and Debate
Thurs. Mar. 7	TBA
Tues. Mar. 12	Student Presentations and Debate
Thurs. Mar. 14	Student Presentations and Debate
Tues. Mar. 19	Student Presentations and Debate
Thurs. Mar. 21	Student Presentations and Debate
Tues. Mar. 26	Student Presentations and Debate
Thurs. Mar. 28	Student Presentations and Debate
Tues. Ap. 2	Student Presentations and Debate
Thurs. Ap. 4	Student Presentations and Debate
Tues. Ap. 9	'LONG ESSAY' DUE IN (40%)
Thurs. Ap. 11	Course review, conclusion, and implications for further study in Criminology / Sociology of Sport
Fri. Ap. 12	WINTER SESSION CLASSES END

PASSING GRADES

It is **not** required that students record a passing grade on any one assignment in order to pass the course overall.

GRADE REAPPRAISAL

Within two weeks of the date of an assignment, students seeking reappraisal must submit a written request to the instructor explaining the basis for reappraisal. The instructor will consider the circumstances, check the scoring, and communicate his decision to the student. In all cases a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND DEVICES

Please note that the use of laptops, tablets, cell phones or other electronic devices are *only* permitted during lectures for class-related purposes. Where cell phones in particular are concerned, please be respectful and remember to mute your cell phone and refrain from using it during class.

EMAIL

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Indicate your course number in your email's subject line, and include a respectful 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 other emails will be answered as quickly as possible. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will not be responded to. Questions regarding course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues are best dealt with during office hours.

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.

HANDING IN PAPERS AND 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.

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.

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-5.html>

ABSENCES AND DEFERRALS

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 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 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).

STUDENT REPRESENTATION

The 2018-19 Students' Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington (suypaca@ucalgary.ca). For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>. You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

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 ACCOMODATION

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy. Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

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

STUDENT RESOURCES

[**SU Wellness Centre**](#)
[**Campus Mental Health Strategy**](#)