

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
Department of Sociology
Distance Studies, Office of the Registrar
2016

Sociology 2267A-650
Youth in Conflict with the Law

INSTRUCTOR: Lisa Lyons

EMAIL: llyons@uwo.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Please email me in the course mail or at llyons@uwo.ca

WEBSITE: <http://owl.uwo.ca>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will review sociological perspectives on youth criminal offending and on the legal and moral regulation of youth. Canadian social policies with respect to the criminal behaviour of young persons will also be examined. Students will be expected to participate in weekly on-line discussions of the readings worth 30% of your final grade.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

The prerequisite for this course is Sociology 2266 A/B.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. It is students' responsibilities to check that that you have the prerequisites for this course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course students will be able to

- Identify, analyze and evaluate a variety of theories of criminology, and assess the conceptual differences among them.
- Apply theory and sociological research to interpret youth crime and social responses to it.
- Read, synthesize and evaluate theoretical arguments and published research on youth crime from a critical perspective.
- Understand and demonstrate the competent use of different quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Demonstrate effective written communication skills and the ability to discuss ideas clearly and articulately.

REQUIRED READINGS

Bell, Sandra J. (2015) *Young Offenders and Youth Justice A Century After The Fact*. Fifth Edition. Nelson Thomson Learning

FORMAT

This course is on-line. The midterm and final examinations will be written in person at your examination centre.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Weekly On-line Participation/Discussion 30%

Midterm Examination **Saturday October 15, 2016 (date to be confirmed) Units 1-5** 30%

Final examination **Final Examination Period December 10-21, 2016** 40%

GRADE GUIDELINES

The Department of Sociology has grade distribution guidelines that all instructors are required to follow. For Sociology courses at the 2100 and 2200 level:

* A's are not to exceed B's, and

* Class averages must be in the range of 66-70%

ONLINE PARTICIPATION/DISCUSSION

Your participation mark is worth 30% of your final grade and is based on your online participation in the weekly unit discussions. Beginning on Monday September 12, I will be posting weekly online learning units that you can access on the course homepage. These learning units will be posted each Monday as indicated in the course syllabus under Unit 1, Unit 2, etc. In the Unit learning module I will include a question for the weekly discussion.

During the week students are required to submit your responses to the discussion question based on your understanding of the lecture and readings. I am looking for students to integrate material from the readings into your discussion postings. Students should participate at different points throughout the week. I would like you contributing 2-3 times throughout the week to the development of the ongoing discussion. Please have your postings completed by Sunday at midnight each week.

Please see the **Participation Rubric** for further information on grading criteria.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

SCANTRON EXAMS

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

MISSED EXAMS AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office at least one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam.

If you miss an exam date or the due date for an assignment due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification of and documentation for the reasons for your circumstances to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date the assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a makeup exam or hand in your assignment at a later date.

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS

Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office. In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS
September 8 - Unit 1	Student Introductions	
September 12 - Unit 1	The Rise and Fall of Delinquency	Bell, ch. 1
September 19 - Unit 2	Creating A Juvenile Justice System	Bell, ch. 2
September 26 - Unit 3	The "Facts" of Youth Crime	Bell, ch. 3
October 3 - Unit 4	The Social Face of Youth Crime	Bell, ch. 4
October 11 – Unit 5	Explaining Crime and Delinquency	Bell, ch. 5
October 15	Midterm Examination	Units 1-5
October 17 – Unit 6	Different Directions in Theorizing	Bell, ch. 6
October 24 - Unit 7	Family, School and Peers	Bell, ch. 7
October 31 - Unit 8	First Contact: Police and Diversion	Bell, ch. 8
November 7 - Unit 9	Going to Court	Bell, ch. 9
November 14 - Unit 10	Youth Corrections: Going to Jail	Bell, ch. 10
November 21 - Unit 11	Perpetuating Social Injustice	Bell, ch. 11
November 28 – Unit 12	A Century After the Fact	Bell, ch. 12
December 5	Last Day of Class	
December 10 - 21	Final Exam Period	Units 1-12

Please check Department of Sociology web site for class cancellations or changes:

<http://sociology.uwo.ca>