



Western University  
**SOCIOLOGY 2267B-001**  
**Youth in Conflict with the Law**  
**Winter 2016**  
**Thursday 2:30-5:30, SSC**

**Instructor: Professor Dale Ballucci**

TA: Travis Hackshaw [thacksha@uwo.ca](mailto:thacksha@uwo.ca) SSC 5323  
(can be reached by appointment)

Office Hours: Thursday 1:30-2:30 pm or by appointment  
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5403  
Email: [dballucc@uwo.ca](mailto:dballucc@uwo.ca)

---

**Course Description:**

Welcome to Delinquency! At the end of this course you will have an understanding of juvenile delinquency. We will begin by exploring the history of delinquency, paying particular attention to how, why, and when youth delinquency is constructed as a social problem. This course will also examine the factors that contribute to youth crime, and how the legal system responds to delinquency. The course objectives are to highlight the various dimensions of youth crime and to detail the court and social responses to youth crime.

**Required Text(s):**

Bell, Sandra J. 2011. *Young Offenders and Youth Justice: A Century after the Fact*. 4th ed. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education.

**Prerequisites:** Sociology 2266A/B.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students should:

- have an understanding of the factors that shape youth delinquency
- be familiar with the policies and practices of youth delinquency
- be familiar with how delinquency is constructed and the effects of this process on justice system outcomes
- be aware of the influence of race, gender, social class, and age on how young people are treated in society and the justice system.

**Method of Evaluation:**

<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Weight (%)</b>
Mid-Term 1	25
Mid-Term 2	25
Final Exam	25
In Class Group Discussions	12
In Class Assignment	13

***Evaluation Breakdown:*****In Class Group Discussions 12%**

Students will be asked to work in small groups (maximum 5 students) to discuss the themes and issues raised in the textbook and lectures. In these group discussions you will be required to reflect on the discussion, lecture material, textbook material and class films/clips (if applicable), by discussing several questions and /or topics. Attendance will be taken and participation in the discussion will be monitored by the professor and/or teacher assistant. This portion is worth a total of 12% (2% each). There may be a written component that must be handed in at the end of class. The weeks that group discussions will take place will be listed on the course outline. We will try to stay on schedule however, various factors might change the weeks that these occur.

**In Class Group Assignment 13%**

Students will be asked to work in small groups to answer several questions in response to a film. The response will require students to incorporate lecture and textbook material to the film shown in class. This assignment **MUST** be handed in at the end of the class. Bring your textbook to class for this assignment. The date for this assignment is February 16. There is no make up for this assignment. If you miss the class and assignment for medical reasons you **MUST** go get a letter from accommodation services.

**Mid-Terms (25%) and Final Exam (25%)**

Mid-terms, and final exam will consist of multiple choice. The Final exam is not cumulative. All material presented in class can be on the exams. This includes examples made by myself and/or your fellow classmates, assigned readings (both from the text and otherwise), as well as the films, guest lectures, and class discussions.

**Films and Discussions**

You are also responsible for the content of films, radio broadcasts, guest lectures, newspaper articles, and class discussions that are also part of this course.

## **How to Contact Me:**

I can be contacted via email at [dballucc@uwo.ca](mailto:dballucc@uwo.ca).

Only emails that use proper etiquette will be answered. For example, a salutation is required. “Hello Professor Ballucci, Dr. Ballucci, or Dale” is acceptable. “Hey”, “Miss”, or the absence of a salutation is not acceptable. Also, no texting terminology is acceptable. Lastly, provide me with your name and the course and section you are emailing about.

Also, please do not email me questions about course content or course procedures. I will take time in every class to answer these types of questions. There are, however, two main exceptions to this policy:

1. You are experiencing a personal emergency that I need to know about before the next class.
2. You want to make an appointment to see me.

I will give my best effort to respond to these emails within 24 hours.

## **How to get important information:**

All relevant course material will be available in the course outline and in class. Course announcements and information may also be sent to your western email account.

## **Important Policies**

### ***Make up 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 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 to hand in the assignment at a later date.

### ***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 Counseling office.

**In Case of a Death:** Inform your instructors 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 Counseling office.

### ***A Note on Plagiarism:***

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

### **Plagiarism Checking:**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

### ***Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class***

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

### ***Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness***

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at [www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](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](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](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### ***Scholastic 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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### ***Mental Health***

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