



**The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2267B 001
YOUTH IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW
Winter 2019**

Wednesday's 1:30-4:30 in SEB1059

Instructor: Jennifer Reynolds

Office Hours: Wednesday's 12:30-1:20pm

Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5209

(please book an appointment during these times through email correspondence)

Email: jnugent5@uwo.ca

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to sociological perspectives on juvenile delinquency and youth crime. The aim of this course is to examine both the causes of youth crime as well as the sociological and criminological explanations that have been devised to explain youth crime. In addition, the Canadian criminal justice system will be evaluated by looking at the past and current ways in which youth are regulated and processed, and the ways in which policies regarding young offenders are created and implemented.

Prerequisite(s):

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

Unless you have either the requisite 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 the student's responsibility to check that you have the necessary requisites for this course.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course students will:

1. Have a working knowledge of the evolution of legislation regarding young offenders.
2. Be able to understand, utilize, and present criticisms of sociological and criminological theories of youth crime.
3. Understand how young offenders are processed through all tiers of the criminal justice system, including contact with police, diversion programs, the courts, and the correctional system.
4. Be able to critically analyze the impact that policy and legislation have on young people and how this has changed over time.
5. Be able to write a theoretically-informed analysis of a youth criminal event as reported in either print or electronic journalism.

Required Text(s):

Bell, Sandra J. (2014) *Young Offenders and Youth Justice: A Century After the Fact*, 5th Edition. Nelson Education Ltd.

Method of Evaluation:

Test #1 (25%)

Test #2 (25%)

Final Exam (30%)

Case Study (20%)

Evaluation Breakdown

Your grade for this course will be based on your performance on two exams.

(1) Test #1 (25%) and Test #2 (25%)

The questions will include True/False, multiple choice and short-answer/fill in the blank questions.

(2) Final exam (30%): Date TBA (During final exam period in April)

Similar to the first two tests, the final exam will include both multiple choice and short-answer questions. The final exam is non-cumulative.

The examinations will cover a variety of course material (lectures, assigned readings, films shown in class, discussions etc.). Students are responsible for material covered in class regardless of whether they are present for each class. It is important to note that you are responsible for taking lecture notes/accessing notes from fellow students. It might be helpful to make contact with a peer early in the course in case it becomes necessary for you to miss a class. It will also be your responsibility to access/view any films that may be shown during a class in which you miss.

(3) Case Analysis (20%)

Due March 27th. Details to be provided in class and on OWL.

How to Contact Me:

If you have got a question or would like to discuss course content further, please come and see me during my office hours. If you are in class during my office hours and wish to speak with me regarding course material, you can book an appointment with me in person or through e-mail. If you wish to contact me via email, please be advised that I will respond to your message within two business days. I will not provide email responses to questions that have already been addressed on the course outline or in class lectures.

How to get important information:

OWL will be used to post course information, content, reminders and important instructions regarding deadlines, expectations, requirements, etc. It is expected that you check OWL regularly to ensure that you are kept up to date on new and revised course content. From time-to-time I may post or e-mail additional content that may aid in your learning and understanding of course topics. This material may be used in assignments or class discussions.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

Students who miss the assignment or examinations will not be permitted to write unless they submit formal written documentation regarding their absence to academic counseling. Only reasons deemed appropriate by academic counseling will be granted the option to rewrite (ie. doctor's note regarding illness, religious holiday, death/illness of a family member, etc.). If a student suspects that an unavoidable crisis might arise preventing them from completing the assignments or examinations, they should get in contact with the instructor as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements. Students should note that they will not be automatically granted approval for a missed assignment or test and that your home faculty's Academic Counseling office will determine the legitimacy of your request and documentation.

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).

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.”

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.

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 519 661-2111 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

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

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.

Course Schedule and Readings:

| Date | Topic | Required Readings |
|----------------|--|--|
| <i>Jan. 9</i> | Course Introduction The History of Juvenile Delinquency | Chapter 1 |
| <i>Jan. 16</i> | The Youth Justice System in Canada | Chapter 2 |
| <i>Jan. 23</i> | Understanding Youth Crime | Chapters 3 |
| <i>Jan. 30</i> | Young Offenders: Who are they? | Chapters 4 |
| <i>Feb. 6</i> | TEST #1 | Covers Chapters 1-4 |
| <i>Feb. 13</i> | Theories of Delinquency | Chapters 5 & 6 |
| <i>Feb. 20</i> | FALL BREAK | |
| <i>Feb. 27</i> | School, Family & Youth Crime | Chapter 7 |
| <i>Mar. 6</i> | Youth Gangs and Female Young Offenders | Readings on OWL |
| <i>Mar. 13</i> | TEST #2 | Covers Chapters 5-7 & Readings on OWL |
| <i>Mar. 20</i> | Contact with the CJS I: Police & Court | Chapters 8 & 9 |
| <i>Mar. 27</i> | Contact with the CJS II: Corrections *Submit Case Analysis* | Chapter 10 |
| <i>Apr. 3</i> | Social Justice & Equality in the CJS Course Conclusions | Chapters 11 & 12 |
| TBA | Final Exam – April Exam Period | Covers Chapters 8-12 |