



SOCI 425 (01) (The Sociology of Violence)			
Pre/Co-Requisites	Sociology 313, 315, 325, 331, 333		
Instructor:	Nestar Russell	Lecture Location:	HNSC122
Phone:	Email only	Lecture Days/Time:	M/W/F 12.00-12.50pm
Email:	nestar.russell@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	SS930		
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 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.		

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 undertakes a rather in-depth exploration into the topic of violence and Norbert Elias's Figurational 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/Learning Outcomes

- 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).

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic 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.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In the event this course is moved on-line, the successful completion of this course will require students 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

Note: the below schedule is just a guide and may undergo change.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Wed 7 Sept	1	Course overview/Introduction
	Fri 9 Sept	2	Definitional issues on the topic of violence
2	Mon 12 Sept	3	Common theories of violence (part 1): Biological and (some) Sociological
	Wed 14 Sept	4	Common theories of violence (part 1): Biological and (some) Sociological / Common theories of violence (part 2): Subcultural and Interactionist
	Fri 16 Sept	5	Common theories of violence (part 2): Subcultural and Interactionist
3	Mon 19 Sept	6	Documentaries
	Wed 21 Sept	7	Documentaries / Common theories of violence (part 3): Social Learning/Conflict Theories

	Fri 23 Sept	8	Common theories of violence (part 3): Social Learning/Conflict Theories
4	Mon 26 Sept	9	Organisational violence (part 1)
	Wed 28 Sept	10	Organisational violence (part 1) / Organisational Violence (part 2) and Hobbes versus Locke (Chapter 2 of textbook)
5	Mon 3 Oct (Fri 30 Sept: no class)	11	Organisational Violence (part 2) and Hobbes versus Locke (Chapter 2 of textbook). Finally, tips/guidance on the multiple choice test
	Wed 5 Oct	12	Violence and the long view: Hunter-gather versus agricultural societies
	Fri 7 Oct	13	Multiple Choice Test
6	Wed 12 Oct (Mon 10 Oct: no class)	14	Civilizing Process (part 1)
	Fri 14 Oct	15	Civilizing Process (part 1) / Civilizing Process (part 2)
7	Mon 17 Oct	16	Civilizing Process (part 2)
	Wed 19 Oct	17	Violence and Figural Sociology (part 1)
	Fri 21 Oct	18	Violence and Figural Sociology (part 1) / Violence and Figural Sociology (part 2): the Duel
8	Mon 24 Oct	19	Violence and Figural Sociology (part 2): the Duel
	Wed 26 Oct	20	Southern violence and school shootings
	Fri 28 Oct	21	Southern violence and school shootings / Intimate partner violence
9	Mon 31 Oct	22	Intimate partner violence
	Wed 2 Nov	23	Discussion on the Final Essay
	Fri 4 Nov	24	Guest lecture
10	Sun 6 Nov – Sun 13 Nov		Mid-term Break
11	Mon 14 Nov	25	Zygmunt Bauman vs. Norbert Elias
	Wed 16 Nov	26	Zygmunt Bauman vs. Norbert Elias / Colonization and Violence
	Fri 18 Nov	27	Colonization and Violence
12	Mon 21 Nov	28	Colonization and Germany
	Wed 23 Nov	29	Colonization and Germany
	Fri 25 Nov	30	Exam review
13	Mon 28 Nov	31	Documentary
	Wed 30 Nov	32	Documentary

	Fri 2 Dec	33	Documentary review
14	Mon 5 Dec	34	Guest lecture
	Wed 7 Dec	35	Course review and essays due: 5pm

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES/DAY
Multiple Choice Test	25%	Friday, Oct 7
Essay	45%	Wednesday, Dec 7 by 5pm
Final Exam	30%	Registrar Schedule
Total	100%	

- **Multiple-Choice Test:** The date for this test is **Friday 7 October**. This test will be based on Lectures 2-11 and Chapters “Introduction, 1, 2, (pp. 1-48) and 4 (pp. 71-89) in the textbook (**worth 25%** of the final grade). Students will have 50 minutes to complete this test. This test will be open book (the textbook and one booklet of notes will be permitted). More specific details on this exam will be provided.
- **Essay:** Students must write an essay no longer than 1,500 words in length, excluding the reference section (**worth 45%** of the final grade). Submit your essay to the SOCI425 D2L Dropbox. The due date of this piece of assessment is **5pm Wednesday 7 December**.

Specific Instructions:

At the top of the first page of your essay provide the essay question and your in-text word count. Please use APA referencing within the body and in the reference section. Use at least five external references (please do not reference my lectures). The quality of references is also important—scholarly materials typically holds more weight in terms of quality than non-scholarly materials. Students are advised to hand in essays that have been proofread. Start researching early and do not leave writing this important piece of assessment to the last minute. I do not proofread essay drafts. Having said that, if you start researching your essay early, I am happy to talk to you (broadly) about your intended direction and the essay's content (but please do not ask for my advice on such matters within two weeks of the due date).

Essay questions:

“Violence these days is out of control!” Critically discuss this commonly held view about contemporary Canadian society.

Select one Canadian example of organizational violence. Critically assess if the term “responsibility ambiguity” helps to better understand the cause/s of your selected example.

Compare and contrast the history of U.S. and Canadian school shootings. Detail the most important similarities and differences between both countries.

Some argue that Alberta is the Texas of the North. With reference to the history of violence in both locations, how accurate is this perception?

Produce your own essay question. But before you start researching your question you must first consult with me to ensure your question is valid and viable.

- **Final Exam:** Date is TBA (**worth 30%** of the final grade). For more details on this exam, see below.

Final Exam Information

Final Exam	Y
Length	2 hours (120 minutes)
Format	<i>registrar scheduled; online</i>
Type	multiple choice and true-false format

This examination, using multiple choice and true-false format, will be **based on Lectures 12, 14-29 and Chapters 3 (pp. 49-70) and 5-11 (pp. 90-238) in the textbook**. The exam will be **open book**. **The final examination date/time will be scheduled by the Registrar** during the final exam period. The Registrar’s stated allowable time period for this exam is 120 minutes or two hours. But since it will be a remote D2L exam, university regulations stipulate that students be provided with 50% extra time. Therefore, **students will have 180 minutes or three hours to complete this remote D2L quiz function test. This online exam will be an asynchronous, which means students will have 24 hours to access the exam prior to the official exam closing time (as specified by the examinations office)**. For example, if the online final exam was officially scheduled from 12-2pm on November 14, access to the exam would open at 2pm on November 13 and close at 2pm on November 14 (and once started students would have 180 minutes to complete the online exam). More specific details on the Final Exam will be provided.

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.

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>

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of that email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor.

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/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.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.

Deferral of a Final Examination

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

Student committing academic misconduct during the final exam will not receive a passing grade for the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Academic Accommodations:

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. 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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

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 Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. 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.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. 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.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic

concerns, including program planning and advice.

- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)

Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student 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 supports 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 the following resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Wellness Services:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.