

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Department of Sociology

Sociology 423 L01
The Sociology of Youth Crime
Winter 2011

Instructor: M. Belle-McQuillan

Office: SS 950

Phone: 220-6513

e-mail: mbellemc@ucalgary.ca

Prerequisite: Soci 327 and 313; or consent of the Department

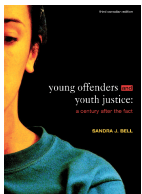
Class Hours: T/Th 9:30-10:45,
SH 274

Office Hours: T/Th 11:00-12:00
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to help the student develop an understanding of youth crime from a sociological perspective. This includes an examination of theoretical, methodological, and empirical perspectives on juvenile delinquency and youth crime. In addition, the social context in which youthful criminal offending takes place will be explored. Selected topics will include issues surrounding youth violence, female criminal behaviour, gang-related activity, and legislation dealing with youth in trouble with the law. The final section of the course will involve a discussion concerning the direction in which the discourse about youth crime is moving.

REQUIRED READINGS



Bell, Sandra J. (2007). *Young Offenders and Youth Justice*. (3rd ed.). Toronto: ITP Nelson.

Text website with on-line self-help quizzes available @
<http://www.bellyoungoffenders3e.nelson.com>



Kelly, Katherine D. and Totten, Mark. (2002). *When Children Kill*. Peterborough: Broadview Press, Ltd.



Remington, Robert and Zickfosse, Sherri. (2009). *Runaway Devil: How Forbidden Love Drove a 12-Year-Old to Murder Her Family*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart Canada.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade in the course will be determined by the following:

Midterm	Feb. 17	30%
Term Paper	Mar. 31	20%
Participation		10%
Final Exam	TBA	40%
	(April exam period)	

Please Read Carefully

There will be two non-cumulative examinations. The examinations will cover a variety of course material (lectures, assigned readings, guest speakers, in-class exercises, films, etc.). Students are responsible for material covered in class regardless of whether they are present for each class. Therefore, it is important that you are aware that I do not hand out my lecture notes to students for whatever reason, nor do I schedule private viewings of films that may be missed. It might be helpful to make contact with a colleague early in the course in case it becomes necessary for you to miss a class.

Please note that there will be no provision for make-up exams or other work for the purpose of improving grades. Be sure that you note the date of the midterm and the registrar-controlled final exam **before** you make any plans (eg. April exam period runs from Apr. 18th to the 29th). The administrative notices which follow will provide further information regarding the procedure for missed exams/assignments and other issues of importance.

Term Paper:

The term paper based on the book by Remington and Zickelofosse, *Runaway Devil: How Forbidden Love Drove a 12-Year-Old to Murder Her Family* is due, in class, on March 31, 2011. Complete details concerning the paper will be available in the first week of classes and will be posted on the BB course site.

Participation:

The participation component for the course will be based upon both in-class and Blackboard course site participation.

Administrative Information:

Emergency evacuations: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point by the Food Court in the Education Block.

Deferrals:

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay 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 physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus 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 about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.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).

Ethics Research: 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 Departmental 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: Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offenses. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor’s office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor’s office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

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.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

Academic Accommodation: Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student’s responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

Letter Grade Assignment:

A letter-grade will be assigned to each student at the end of the semester and submitted to the registrar. Your letter-grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+ 95–100	B+ 80-84	C+ 67-69	D+ 54-58
A 90-94	B 75-79	C 63-66	D 50-53
A- 85-89	B- 70-74	C- 59-62	F 49 or less

Note: The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades:

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor’s office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor’s office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.

SYLLABUS

Date	Topic	Readings
(B) indicates reading from Bell		(KT) indicates reading from Kelly & Totten
 Part One: Historical perspective; Measurement of Youth Crime		
Jan. 11-13	Introduction	(B) Ch. 1
Jan. 18-20	Social and Legal Definitions/ Youth Justice System (Pt. 1)	(B) Ch. 2 (pgs. 34-52) (KT) Preface & Ch. 1 (pgs. 1-4)
Jan. 25-27	Measurement of Criminal Activity	(B) Ch. 3 & 4 (exclude pgs. 121-122) (KT) Ch. 2 (pgs. 21-27)
 Part Two: Theories of Juvenile Delinquency & Youth Criminal Behaviour		
Feb. 1-3	Snapshot: Violent youth	(KT) Ch. 2 (pgs. 28, 39-49) Ch. 4 (pgs. 101-111) Ch. 5 (pgs. 146-171 and pgs. 187-188)
Feb. 8-10	Biological and Psychological explanations	(B) Ch. 5 (pgs. 126-142) (KT) Ch. 3 (pgs. 51-57)
Feb. 15	Sociological explanations: Part one	(B) Ch. 5 (pgs. 142-146) (KT) Ch. 1 (pgs. 4-18)
Feb. 17	Mid-term test	

Feb. 22-24

Reading Week

Mar. 1-3

Sociological explanations:
Part two**(B)** Ch. 5 (pgs. 146-150)
Ch. 6 (pgs. 152-157 and
pgs. 161-163)

Mar. 8-10

Female Criminal Behaviour

(B) Ch. 6 (pgs. 163-173)
Ch.11 (pgs. 327-331 and
pgs. 334-336)**Part Three: The Social Context of Youth Crime**

Mar. 15-22

Influence of Family

(B) Ch. 7 (pgs. 180-194)
Ch.11 (pgs. 331-334)
(KT) Ch. 3 (pgs. 57-78)

Mar. 24

Snapshot: Street youth

(B) Ch. 4 (pgs. 121-122)

Mar. 29

Role of the Educational System

(B) Ch. 7 (pgs. 194-204)
(KT) Ch. 3 (pgs. 78-99)
Ch. 4 (pgs. 120-133)

Mar. 31-Apr. 5

Youth Gangs

(B) Ch. 7 (pgs. 204-213)
(KT) Ch. 4 (pgs. 112-120)

Apr. 7-14

Youth Justice System (Pt. 2)

(B) Ch. 2 (pgs. 52-60)
Ch. 8 (pgs. 225-237)
Ch.10 (pgs. 300-315)
Ch.12 (pgs. 343-347 and
pgs. 352-359 and
pgs. 369-375)
(KT) Ch. 4 (pgs. 133-140)
Ch. 7**Note:** This outline is tentative and as such the dates of the topics may change.

Please check the course BB site for class cancellations or important announcements/changes to

course outline.