

SOCI 425 (SOCIOLOGY OF VIOLENCE)			
<b>Pre/Co-Requisites</b>	SOCI 313, 315, 325, 331, 333		
<b>Instructor:</b>	Mojtaba Rostami	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	SA 124
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	Mon-Wed 13:00 – 15:45
<b>Email:</b>	mojtaba.rostami@ucalgary.ca		
<b>Office:</b>	SS 943	<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment
<b>Instructor Email Policy</b>	<p>Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number 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. 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. Also, please e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person (or virtually) during my office hours.</p>		

### Course Description

In this course we will focus on violence in society by critically examining theory, research, public policy, action and representation related to the causes and control of violence as a social phenomenon. While primarily emphasizing the scholarship within the discipline of sociology, we will also examine interdisciplinary contributions to understanding violence in its social context. Further, we will investigate different forms of violence and the spaces it occurs but will spend the better part of our time reading about and discussing criminal violence. Utilizing our sociological imagination, we will critically reflect on how violence is defined and conceptualized, and will subsequently discuss the implications for research, social and criminal justice policy and intervention. We will attempt to understand who perpetrates violence, who is victimized by violence adopting an intersectional perspective (i.e., gender, race, class, age, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability etc.), and how violence is presented in popular culture and viewed by the public.

### **Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to:

1. Introduce theories and concepts that are fundamental to a sociological understanding of violence.
2. Familiarize students with the major interdisciplinary contributions to explaining violence, as well as individual and collective violent behavior.
3. Identify and evaluate the existing legal and policy responses from government organizations and agency to violence as a social issue in the Canadian society.
4. Encourage students to connect the core concepts, theoretical frameworks and the research methods explored throughout the course and practice applying them to some recent issues related to violence in the Canadian society.

### **Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources**

The required material for this course includes selected articles, book chapters and videos (to be announced on D2L), all accessible through the University of Calgary Library or online.

### **Recommended Textbooks**

Ray, L. (2018). *Violence and society (2nd Ed.)*. London: Sage.

Kilby, & Ray, L. J. (2014). *Violence and society: toward a new sociology*. Wiley Blackwell.

### **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

<b>Dates &amp; Topics</b>	<b>Required Readings &amp; Videos</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Week 1: Introduction to the Course</b>		
Wed, May 3	TBA on D2L	
<b>Week 2: Defining &amp; Conceptualizing Violence</b>		
Mon, May 8	TBA on D2L	
Wed, May 10	TBA on D2L	<i>Quiz #1 Opens</i>
<b>Week 3: Gendered &amp; Domestic Violence – Honor Killings</b>		
Mon, May 15	TBA on D2L	
Wed, May 17	TBA on D2L	
<b>Week 4: Violence &amp; Social Media</b>		
Mon, May 22	Victoria Day: No Class	
Wed, May 24	TBA on D2L	<i>Quiz #2 Opens</i>
<b>Week 5: Hate Crime (Prejudice Motivated Violence)</b>		
Mon, May 29	TBA on D2L	
Wed, May 31	TBA on D2L	
<b>Week 6: State Violence – Terrorism</b>		
Mon, June 5	TBA on D2L	
Wed, June 7	TBA on D2L	<i>Quiz #3 Opens</i>
<b>Week 7: Violence in Canada</b>		
Mon, June 12	TBA on D2L	
Wed, June 14	TBA on D2L	

## **Methods of Assessment & Grading Weights**

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES/DAY
Quiz 1	20%	Fri, May 12
Quiz 2	20%	Fri, May 26
Quiz 3	20%	Fri, June 9
Analysis Paper	40%	Wed, June 21
Total	100%	

## **Course Requirements**

1. In addition to the assigned readings, the topics and ideas covered in the lectures and class discussions will also be drawn upon for assessment purposes. Therefore, regular and punctual attendance is essential for optimal performance in this course. Students are encouraged to attend all sessions and keep abreast of the required readings, being attentive in class and sharing their insights on a regular basis.
2. Students' understanding of the course material will be evaluated through 3 quizzes each constituting 20% of the final grade. The quizzes will be available via D2L on the Wed of the week they're due at 18:00 and will close at 23:59 on Friday. Each quiz will consist of 20 multiple-choice, true-false and multi-select items to be answered within 90 minutes, at only one attempt.
3. Students will write a final sociological analysis paper on a documentary video assigned by the instructor applying some of the relevant theories and concepts studied in class. The paper must be no more than 1500 words in length, excluding the title page and references, due by 23:59 on Wed, June 21, 2023, via the D2L Dropbox. 5-point penalty per one day delay, out of a total of 40 points will be applied. Papers will not be accepted if submitted more than 3 days late, unless extenuating circumstances have been pre-approved by the instructor. This assignment can be completed in teams of two. Further guidelines will be provided in class.

## **Missed Quiz or Exam**

Students are expected to make every reasonable effort to complete all scheduled work and evaluations at the dates and times stated above. A make-up on an alternate date and time can be scheduled by the professor, only if the student provides a valid reason for missing the original. Otherwise, a grade of 0 will be recorded for the missed work. If an evaluation is missed due to illness or other reason, the student must inform the professor at the earliest opportunity.

## **Final Examination**

There will be no final exam for this course.

## **Grading Scale**

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent range</b>	<b>Grade Point Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>A+</b>	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
<b>A</b>	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent performance
<b>A-</b>	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
<b>B+</b>	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
<b>B</b>	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
<b>B-</b>	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
<b>C+</b>	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
<b>C</b>	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
<b>C-</b>	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
<b>D+</b>	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
<b>D</b>	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
<b>F</b>	<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](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](mailto: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 rest 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.

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/student-accommodation-policy>

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)

URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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/>.