



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2021

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE TITLE: SOCIOLOGY OF VIOLENCE			
Course Number	425		
Pre/Co-Requisites	SOCI 313 and 325		
Instructor Name	Dr. Kevin Young	Email	kyoung@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Please feel free to contact me over email at any time. Indicate your course number in your email's subject line, and include a respectful salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. All other emails will be answered as quickly as possible. Questions answerable by consulting the course outline or posted D2L material will not be responded to.		
Office Location	N/A	Office Hours	As above
Telephone No.	N/A		
Class Dates	Asynchronous learning – there are no set class times		
Class Times	N/A		
Class Location	Online		

Course Description

Variably defined and interpreted, *violence* is attracting more attention than ever before in academic circles as well as in the public arena. It has become a central feature and discussion point of the 21st century, and people on and off campus are hungry to understand its roots. This course examines these roots. More specifically, the course is built around three principal goals:

- i) to examine and assess the socio-genesis and manifestation of, and resolution to, forms of aggression, violence and victimization;
- ii) to examine and assess the varied ways that forms of aggression, violence and victimization have been explained sociologically;
- iii) to expand conventional definitions of 'sports violence' and move toward a more inclusive -- and fully *sociological* -- understanding of 'Sports-Related Violence'.

In brief, this course investigates *violence* using aspects of aggression, violence and victimization related to sport as its substantive focus. It will draw centrally from two literatures: Criminology and Sociology of Sport. The course is intended for senior students with an interest in these two main areas. As a 400-level specialized course, it assumes intimacy with concepts, theories and ideas taught in Sociology 325 (*Deviance and Social Control*). Substantively, it would also be helpful for students to have taken other 400-level Criminology Concentration classes as well as Sociology 399 (*Sociology of Sport*), but these are not essential or required.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to, and encourage an understanding of, the sociology of violence, especially as it pertains to aspects of aggression, violence and victimization in and around sport. Thus, the central teaching and learning goals for students are to:

- Become familiar with a variety of current topics and empirical studies of issues related to violence in sport.
- Critically read and analyze theoretical and empirical literature on the sociology of violence related to sport.
- Apply course material to real life examples and experiences of aggression, violence and victimization related to sport.

Course Format

1. This course will be delivered online **asynchronously**. This means that there will be no in-person meetings with the professor, nor any pre-arranged meetings via Zoom. However, students may contact the instructor whenever they like to discuss course issues, including assignments, and it is the instructor's commitment to respond in a thorough and timely fashion.
2. Weekly tasks ('Objectives & Instructions') will be posted on D2L throughout the semester following the schedule below. Annotated PowerPoint slides will also be posted on D2L as appropriate throughout the semester. These slides will be accompanied by equally regular explanations regarding their purpose and content, as well as their potential application to student assignments.
3. The course D2L site is the 'engine room' of this course, and it is imperative that students engage with it regularly to keep pace with content, sequence and purpose.
4. Between the outline and posted D2L materials, course content and direction will be regular and comprehensive. However, in addition, any issues that need clarifying will be posted on the 'front page' of our D2L site as *News* or *Student Questions*.

Learning Resources

The course requires two books. Although in different ways and with different foci, both aim to explain the roots and manifestations of violence in society:

Kevin Young (2019). *Sport, Violence and Society (Second Edition)*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge. *This publication by the instructor examines what we mean by 'violence' and 'sports violence' specifically. Adopting a panoramic and global perspective, the book shows how apparently disparate articulations of 'sports-related violence' are sociologically connected. The 2nd edition of this book, not the 1st, is required.*

Steven Pinker (2011). *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence has Declined*. New York: Penguin. *Pinker’s massively comprehensive book brings together a wide range of material on violence as a modern and international social problem. It uniquely combines deep historical analysis and comprehensive theoretical discussion with rich empirical description in a global approach. His essential argument, in opposition to populist and often alarmist views, is that, overall, violence has declined.*

Additional Readings: With permissions approval, useful ‘Additional Readings’ will also be posted or ‘linked’ on D2L.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

Again, there is a D2L site for this course which contains all relevant class resources and materials (other than course books).

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

As an asynchronous course, the traditional set times and dates for any given class do not apply. However, there is a sequence of class material that closely mirrors the content of the required text.

DATE (Week of)	SUBJECT
Mon. Jan. 11	WINTER SESSION CLASSES BEGIN
Tues. Jan. 12	Introduction to the course: Objectives, topics, grading, expectations Violence, Aggression and Victimization: Social Scientific Approaches
Tues. Jan. 19	Violence, Aggression and Victimization: Social Scientific Approaches
Tues. Jan. 26	Violence, Aggression and Victimization: Social Scientific Approaches
Tues. Feb. 2	Sports-Related Violence (SRV): Expanding a Subdiscipline’s Terrain
Tues. Feb. 9	Sports-Related Violence (SRV): Expanding a Subdiscipline’s Terrain
Tues. Feb. 16	Reading Week: No Classes
Tues. Feb. 23	Sports-Related Violence (SRV): Expanding a Subdiscipline’s Terrain
Tues. Mar. 2	Essay 1 due (50%)
Tues. Mar. 9	SRV: Player Violence
Tues. Mar. 16	SRV: Crowd Violence
Tues. Mar. 23	SRV: Risk, Pain and Injury

Tues. Mar. 30	SRV: The Role of the Media
Tues. Ap. 6	SRV: Social Stratification
Tues. Ap. 13	Course review & implications for further study in Criminology/Sociology of Sport Essay 2 due (50%)
Thurs. Ap. 15	WINTER SESSION CLASSES END

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

Two essay assignments, dividing the course into two roughly equal halves, have been scheduled. The first, which tackles the broad sociological question of ‘what is violence’, sets the context for the second (more applied and interpretive in nature) on violence in sport and how to conceive of the subject matter sociologically. Detailed instructions including the essay questions and specific style requirements will be posted on D2L.

The respective dates, values and submission circumstances of Essays 1 and 2 are:

1. Essay 1 – Tuesday March 2, 2021 (50%) -- Submitted via D2L Dropbox by Noon.
2. Essay 2 – Tuesday April 13, 2021 (50%) -- Submitted via D2L Dropbox by Noon.

In the case of both submissions, late penalties of 10% per day will apply. It is the responsibility of students, not the professor, to keep a copy of submitted work.

Students should also note the following re the course assignments:

- Collaboration between students (e.g., discussing questions, approaches to answers, suggestions of where to find relevant material in notes or texts) in any way (voice, text, chat, etc.) during the time that an assessment is available is permitted.
- Use of/memorization of/copying from collaboratively-authored study notes (such as those generated or shared in chat groups, file sharing sites, etc.) is not permitted.
- Use of sources (online or otherwise) not provided by the instructor to create study notes to prepare for course assignments (to be used with or without citations in the assessments) is not permitted.
- Use of online file sharing and “tutoring” sites such as CourseHero, Chegg, etc. for the creation of study notes to prepare for (or use in) assignments is not permitted.
- Use of online scholarly materials not provided by the instructor during assessments is permitted if used in an honest and acknowledged way.

Student involvement in violations of the above rules may constitute academic misconduct.

Final Exam Information

There is no final examination for this course.

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+	95%>	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	85-94%	4.0	Excellent performance
A-	80-84%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
B+	77-79%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
B	74-76%	3.0	Good performance
B-	70-73%	2.7	Approaching good performance
C+	67-69%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	64-66%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
C-	60-63%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	55-59%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	<49%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Passing Grades

It is not required that students record a passing grade on any one assignment in order to pass the course overall.

Absences and Deferrals

Students who miss class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructor as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, the instructor may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or

assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

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 can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

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/deferral-of-term-work-2020.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.

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

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 subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Instructor Intellectual Property

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

Recording of Lectures

The audio or video recording of lectures and taking screenshots of PowerPoint slides during the lecture are not permitted without explicit authorization. The non-authorized media recording of lectures is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and may result in discipline in accordance with the Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure. For more information click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

Sharing of Lecture Notes and Exam Questions

Publicly sharing lectures notes and exam questions on 3rd party sites such as OneClass, StudyBlue, Quizlet, Course Hero, etc. is not permitted. If you wish to use these helpful studying tools, make sure you adjust your privacy settings accordingly. Any violations are subject to investigation under the UofC Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy. For more information, click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Academic Accommodation

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. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. 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: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

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>

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that 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 support 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 Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca.

Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca>.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

<https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points>

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use

any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.