



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2022

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

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

COURSE TITLE: The Sociology of Violence			
Course Number	SOCI 425		
Pre/Co-Requisites	Sociology 313, 315, 325, 331, 333		
Instructor Name	Nestar Russell	Email	nestar.russell@ucalgary.ca
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 violating customary email conventions will be ignored. 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. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will not be answered.		
Office Location	Remote	Office Hours	By appointment only
Telephone No.	Email only		
Class Dates	Monday 10 January – Monday 11 April		
Class Times	Recorded lectures, PowerPoint slides and documentary links will be posted on D2L (Monday and Wednesday evenings).		
Class Location	Online		

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 Figural 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).

Course Format

This course will be asynchronous. Twice a week—Monday and Wednesday evenings—recorded lectures will be posted on D2L that students can download and then watch. Accompanying these lectures will be PowerPoint lecture slides (further details forthcoming).

Learning 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 order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to 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: All Lectures are asynchronous

Lecture 1 – Mon. Jan. 10: Course overview/Introduction

Lecture 2— Wed. Jan. 12: Discussion on final essay project and definitional issues on the topic of violence

Lecture 3— Mon. Jan. 17: Common theories of violence (part 1): Biological and (some) Sociological

- Lecture 4— Wed. Jan. 19: Common theories of violence (part 2): Subcultural and Interactionist
- Lecture 5— Mon. Jan. 24: Documentaries
- Lecture 6— Wed. Jan. 26: Common theories of violence (part 3): Social Learning/Conflict Theories
- Lecture 7— Mon. Jan. 31: Organisational violence (part 1)
- Lecture 8— Wed. Feb. 2: Organisational Violence (part 2), Hobbes versus Locke (Chapter 2 of textbook), and finally, tips/guidance on First Short Answer Test (**submit Documentary Observational Report**).
- Lecture 9— Mon. Feb. 7: Violence and the long view: Hunter-gather versus agricultural societies
- Lecture 10— Wed. Feb. 9: **First Multiple Choice Test**
- Lecture 11— Mon. Feb. 14: Civilizing Process (part 1)
- Lecture 12— Wed. Feb. 16: Civilizing Process (part 2)
- Mid-term Break: Sun. 20 Feb. to Sat. 26 Feb.*
- Lecture 13— Mon. Feb 28: Violence and Figural Sociology (part 1)
- Lecture 14— Wed. Mar. 2: Violence and Figural Sociology (part 2): the Duel
- Lecture 15— Mon. Mar. 7: Southern violence and school shootings
- Lecture 16— Wed. Mar. 9: Intimate partner violence
- Lecture 17— Mon. Mar 14: Discussion on the Final Essay
- Lecture 18— Wed. Mar 16: **Second Multiple Choice Test**
- Lecture 19— Mon. Mar. 21: Documentary

Lecture 20— Wed. Mar. 23: Documentary analysis

Lecture 21— Mon. Mar. 28: First and Second Test Review

Lecture 22— Wed. Mar. 30: Essay discussion period

Lecture 23— Mon. April. 4: Documentary

Lecture 24— Wed. April 6: Documentary analysis **Final essay due 5pm**

Lecture 25— Mon. April 11: Course review

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

- **Documentary Observational Report:** In this course students will be required to submit a documentary observational report. This report is to be submitted to the SOCI425 D2L dropbox. More specific details on this assignment will be provided. Due date: **12pm Wednesday February 2 (worth 10%** of the final grade).
- **First Multiple-Choice Test:** This test will be based on Lectures 2-8 and Chapters “Introduction, 1, 2, (pp. 1-48) and 4 (pp. 71-89) in the textbook (**worth 15%** of the final grade). **Within a 24-hour window (12.00am to 11.59pm) on Wednesday 9 February**, students will have 40 minutes to complete this test. But since it will be a **remote D2L test**, university regulations stipulate that students be provided with 50% extra time. Therefore, **students will have 60 minutes to complete this test**. This test is **open book** (consulting with personal notes, lecture slides, and the textbook is allowed during the test). However, collaboration between students during this test is absolutely prohibited (engagement in such behavior may constitute academic misconduct). A computer with a supported operating system and broadband internet connection will be required to complete this test. If, during this test, a student has any questions or encounters any problems, I will regularly be checking my email and will respond to them as quickly as possible.
- **Second Multiple-Choice Test:** This test will be based on Lectures 9, 11-16 and Chapters 3 (pp. 49-70) and 5-11 (pp. 90-238) in the textbook (**worth 30%** of the final grade). **Within a 24-hour window (12.00am to 11.59pm) on Wednesday 16 March**, students will have 80 minutes or 1 hour and 20 minutes to complete this test. But since it will be a **remote D2L test**, university regulations stipulate that students be provided with 50% extra time. Therefore, **students will have 120 minutes or 2 hours to complete this test**. This test is **open book** (consulting with personal notes, lecture slides, and the textbook is allowed during the test). However, collaboration between students during this test is absolutely prohibited (engagement in such

behavior may constitute academic misconduct). A computer with a supported operating system and broadband internet connection will be required to complete this test. If, during this test, a student has any questions or encounters any problems, I will regularly be checking my email and will respond to them as quickly as possible.

- Final 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. More specific details on this essay will be forthcoming. The due date of this piece of assessment is **5pm Wednesday 6 April**.

Final Exam Information

No final exam.

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.

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/F21_deferral-of-term-work_weighting.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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/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/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>

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/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>

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 Accommodation is available at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

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.