

University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology

**Sociology 077:383 L02– Youth, Crime and Society – Spring 2006 (Term 2)**  
**Slot 2 – MWF (9:30-10:20) – Room 215 Tier (3 credit hours)**

**Instructor:** Dr. R. Smandych  
**Office:** 303 Isbister Building  
**Office Hours:** Monday 1:00–2:30 p.m., or by appointment  
**Phone:** 474-6446  
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**Course Description:** This course is designed to provide students with a detailed understanding of issues surrounding childhood deviance and the treatment of young offenders in the criminal justice system. The course will cover topics including: historical perspectives on the changing role of children and youth in Canadian society; cross-cultural perspectives on childhood; legislation dealing with young offenders (the JDA, YOA, and YCJA); young offenders and the media; and current research on youth crime, youth crime prevention, and the treatment of young offenders in the Canadian criminal justice system. The course will also introduce students to comparative research on the different approaches to dealing with youth crime that exist in countries outside of North America. This comparative-historical approach is aimed at generating new policy ideas and recommendations needed to bring about progressive changes in the way youth justice issues are dealt with in Canada.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation:** The course will consist of lectures and discussions on topics outlined in the attached course syllabus. Students are expected to do the required readings, and be prepared to engage in discussions of the topics covered in the readings. They will also be expected to participate actively in in-class small-group discussions.

The course evaluation will consist of three in-class tests (60%), a library-based research project (10%), and a major youth crime prevention program development project (30%). Provided below is a breakdown of the value of each of the course requirements and related due dates:

Test 1	20%	(Friday February 3)
Library-Based Research Project	10%	(Friday March 10)
Test 2	20%	(Wednesday March 15)
Test 3	20%	(Friday April 7)
Youth Crime Prevention Project	30%	(Thursday April 13)

The following grade distribution will be used in the evaluation of the students' work:

A+	90 - 100	C+	65 - 69
A	80 - 89	C	60 - 64
B+	75 - 79	D	50 - 59
B	70 - 74	F	0 - 49

**Tentative Outline of Topics to be Covered:**

Week 1	Children and Youth in Historical and Comparative Perspective
Week 2	Youth Justice Systems: Origins and Development
Weeks 3-4	Young Offender Legislation: Current Principles and Practice
Week 5	Youth Crime Trends, Public Discourse and the Media
Week 6	Youth Crime: Theories and Problems
Week 7	Youth Gangs
Week 8	Violent Youth Crime
Week 9	Youth Crime Prevention: What Doesn't Work?
Weeks 10-12	Youth Crime Prevention: What Works?
Week 13	Understanding Youth Justice System Reform

### **Required Course Readings:**

Smandych, Russell C. (ed.), Youth Justice: History, Legislation, and Reform. Toronto: Harcourt Canada, 2001.

Howell, James C. Preventing and Reducing Juvenile Delinquency: A Comprehensive Framework. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 2003.

In addition, as part of their library-based research project, students will be required to read journal articles that are available on-line through the University of Manitoba Library System, and that students enrolled at the University of Manitoba can download as PDF files free of charge.

**Missed Tests:** If a test is missed for a legitimate medical or compassionate reason the student must get in touch with the instructor, provide related documentation if requested, and arrange for a make-up test. Under normal circumstances, the student is required to inform the instructor of their request for a make-up test within one week of the original test date. Failure to request a make-up test within the expected time frame may result in ineligibility for a make-up test and a mark of zero for that test.

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will incur a penalty of 2 marks for each day the assignment is late unless the student has contacted the instructor before the assignment due date and requested a time extension. Time extensions will only be given for documented medical and compassionate reasons.

**Academic Integrity:** Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "Examinations: Personations" (p. 26) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (p. 27) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

**The last date for voluntary withdrawal is March 17, 2006.**