

University of Manitoba

Department of Sociology

YOUTH, CRIME, AND SOCIETY (SOC 3830)

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:30-9:20am

FALL 2006 (3 credit hours)

Instructor: Rosie Parmar

Office: 301 I Isbister Building

Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 or by appt.

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Location: 403 Tier Building

Session: Regular 2006-07

Section: A01

Term: 1st

Course Information:

Course Objectives: This course is designed to make students critically think about issues pertaining to childhood deviance and the treatment of young offenders in the criminal justice system. The nature and extent of youth crime in Canada along with the programs developed to prevent youth crime will be examined. Topics to be covered include: historical perceptions on the changing roles of youth in Canadian society, legislation dealing with young offenders (JDA, YOA, and YCJA), youth gangs, youth and the media, and youth crime prevention. Students will explore issues of young offender intervention and consider current programming and offer suggestions for innovation and change in the future of dealing with young offenders in Canada.

Required Textbooks:

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

A variety of hand-outs as required.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

The course will consist of lectures; films; group discussions; and presentations. Students are expected to do the required readings and be prepared to engage in group discussions based on the topics covered in the readings.

The mid-term test will be mainly short answer/essay style questions which will be completed in class. The journals will be based on readings and in-class group discussions and are due on the same day of the assigned reading. The short essay will be written on a topic chosen by the student from a selected list. The class will be divided into groups for the oral presentation. Each group will present on a selected week's topic in a debate format of the critical issues involved for that week involving for example, case analysis research, in an attempt to unravel the 'gap' between the public perception of youth crime and the actual 'reality'.

Mid-Term Test	20%	in class October 23, 2006
Reflective Journals	15%	Left at students discretion.
Oral Presentation	15%	Based on presentation group/topic.
Short Essay	20%	DUE: in class November 13, 2006
Take Home Final Exam	30%	Handed out last day of class.

Grade Distribution for this course is as follows:

A+ Exceptional	90-100	C+ Satisfactory	64-66
A Excellent	80-89	C Adequate	57-63
B+ Very Good	75-79	D Marginal	50-56
B Good	67-74	F Inadequate	0-49

Tentative Schedule of Topics

- 1) *Introduction to Course*
- 2) *Historical Perceptions of Youth Crime*
- 3) *Youth Crime Trends: Facts and Realities*
- 4) *Youth Crime Trends: Public Discourse and the Media*
- 5) *Youth Crime Theories*
- 6) *Early Youth Justice System Initiatives: JDA*
- 7) *Early Youth Justice System Initiatives: YOA*
- 8) *The Youth Criminal Justice Act YCJA*
- 9) *Youth Gangs*
- 10) *Violent Youth Crime*
- 11) *Aboriginal/Female Youth and the Justice System: Perpetuating Social Injustice*
- 12) *Youth Crime Prevention: How Do We Best Approach the Problem of Youth Crime?*
- 13) *Conclusion to Course*

Late Written Assignments: Penalties imposed on all assignments handed in after the due date will be at a rate of 3% per day and 5% per weekend. Time extensions will only be given for documented medical and compassionate reasons that must be discussed with the instructor **in advance**. Work submitted past one week from the due date will no longer be accepted.

Missed Test/Presentations: A make-up test will be permitted if there is a valid medical/personal reason. You must inform the instructor **prior** to the test with appropriate documentation. Students who fail to do so will be given a zero. Similarly, for the presentation all group members must be present. Failure to attend will result in a zero, unless prior alternative arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Plagiarism: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Personation at Examinations' (Section 4.2.8) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (Section 7.1) found in the Undergraduate Calendar. The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

The last date for voluntary withdrawal is November 15, 2006.

*** A detailed reading list and lecture schedule will be provided on the first day of class ***

