

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology

SOC 3830 Youth, Crime and Society (A01 CRN:30153)

Spring Day: June 3 - June 25, 2013, 3 credit hours
(MTWThF @ 1:30 - 3:30 pm in Room 406 Tier Building)

Instructor: Mary-Anne Kandrack Office: 301E Isbister Building
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Objectives of the course:

This course provides a detailed examination of the considerations relevant to childhood deviance and youth conflicts with the law as well as the treatment of young offenders in the criminal justice system. Preliminary considerations include the definition and social construction of childhood and adolescence in an historical context, and legislation concerning young offenders. These issues will be informed by theory and research on youth crime and justice, including at risk youth and strategies to keep youth out of the system.

Required texts:

Winterdyk, John and Russell Smandych (eds). Youth at Risk and Youth Justice: A Canadian Overview, Oxford University Press, Don Mills: 2012.

*Additional readings may be assigned throughout the course.

Course requirements:

The final grade for the course will be based on the following:

- 1) Attendance (10%): two point deduction for each missed class.
- 2) In-class group exercises (20%):
June 7 - 10% and June 21 - 10%
- 3) Letter to the Editor and Gov't Official (20%): due in-class June 24, 2013.
- 4) In-class Test (30%): Friday, June 14, 2013
- 5) In-class Test (20%): Tuesday, June 25, 2013

The course requirements will be based on the readings, lectures and class discussions. Students are expected to attend class and to complete the readings in advance of the lectures so that any problems, concerns or issues can be raised for discussion in class. Participation in class discussion is both welcomed and encouraged. In-class tests will be comprised of essay questions and study questions will be distributed in advance to assist in your preparation. The 'letter to the editor/government official' will be detailed in a separate hand out.

Make-up tests and missed group exercises or late assignments will not be considered unless appropriate documentation has been received.

Requests for special consideration must be made well in advance. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor within 24 hours of a missed requirement or test. Neglecting to do so will result in a grade of zero for that requirement.

Requirements for the group exercises will be detailed in class.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students should familiarize themselves with the online University of Manitoba Academic Calendar and Catalog: <http://umanitoba.ca/calendar> and refer to the section on General Academic Regulation: Section 5 – Academic Evaluation: Personation at Examination (Section 5.2.9) and Section 8 – Academic Integrity – Plagiarism and Cheating (Section 8.1). 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 voluntary withdrawal date for May Day half courses is June 19, 2013.

Grade distribution:

A+	95-100	(Exceptional)	C+	65-71	(Average)
A	86-94	(Excellent)	C	60-64	(Satisfactory)
B+	80-85	(Very Good)	D	50-59	(Marginal)
B	72-79	(Good)	F	<50	(Fail)

DISRUPTIONS: On the issue of politeness, please note that disruptions due to talking, late arrival and/or early departures to and from the classroom are disruptive. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving the class early should inform the instructor. Similarly, arriving late should be avoided and/or explained to the instructor.

It should also be noted that lap top computers may only be used for the purpose of taking notes; any other uses will result in this privilege being withdrawn. Cell phones are to be turned off during class and text messaging is strictly prohibited. Students will be excused from the class if s/he refuses to comply with these restrictions.

Class Schedule:

This is a tentative class schedule and may be modified as we proceed. Our progress through the course materials will be monitored to determine whether any changes are appropriate.

June 3: Introduction and overview of the course

June 4 - June 7:

The first section of the course examines preliminary considerations that are critical to the study of youthful offending. This includes historical changes in the construction of childhood, legislative change and the theories and research pertaining to young offenders.

Readings: Winterdyck and Smandych, Parts I and II (pp 1 - 198).

Friday, June 7: In-class group exercise (10% of final grade)

Friday, June 14: In-class test (30% of final grade)

June 17 - June 24:

The second section of the course engages a focused analysis of at-risk youth. This is followed by an exploration of the strategies that can assist in keeping youth out of the criminal justice system, for example, restorative justice initiatives.

Readings: Winterdyck and Smandych, Parts III and IV (pp 201 - 395).

Friday, June 21: in-class group exercise (10% of final grade)

Monday, June 24: Letters to the Editor/Government Official: due in-class (20% of final grade)

Tuesday, June 25: In-class test (20% of final grade)