

University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology

**Sociology 3830 A01– Youth, Crime and Society – Winter 2010 (T2)**  
Slot 1 – MWF (8:30-9:20) – Room 213 Tier (3 credit hours)

**Instructor:** Dr. R. Smandych  
**Office:** 303 Isbister Building  
**Office Hours:** Monday 11:00am-12:00 pm, or by appointment  
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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 and delinquency; young offenders and the media; legislation dealing with young offenders (the JDA, YOA, and YCJA); and current research on youth crime, youth crime prevention, and youth criminal justice system reform.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation:** The course will consist of lectures and discussions on topics outlined in the course syllabus. Students are expected to do the required readings, and be prepared to engage in discussions of the topics covered in the lectures and readings.

The course evaluation will consist of three in-class tests, two written assignments, and a term paper. Provided below is a breakdown of the value of each of the course requirements and related approximate test and assignment due dates:

Test 1	15%	(Monday, February 8)
Assignment 1	10%	(Wednesday, February 10)
Test 2	15%	(Wednesday, March 10)
Assignment 2	10%	(Friday, March 12)
Term Paper Proposal	5%	(Monday, March 15)
Test 3	15%	(Friday, April 9)
Term Paper	20%	(Monday, April 12)
Attendance/Participation	10%	

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

A+	93 - 100	C+	65 - 69
A	85 - 92	C	60 - 64
B+	75 - 84	D	50 - 59
B	70 - 74	F	0 - 49

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

1. Introduction: Toward an Understanding of Youth and Crime (Media Discourse, Popular Consciousness, and Youth Crime Trends)
2. Youth, Legislation, and History (from the *Juvenile Delinquents Act* to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*)
3. Youth Crime: Theories and Special Populations (Youth Gangs, Criminalized Girls, Marginalized Aboriginal and Street Youth)
4. Responding to Youth, Crime, and Society (Youth Crime Prevention and Youth Criminal Justice System Reform)

## **Required Course Readings:**

J. Minaker and B. Hogeveen, *Youth, Crime, and Society: Issues of Power and Justice*. Toronto: Pearson, 2009.

J. Howell, *Preventing and Reducing Juvenile Delinquency: A Comprehensive Framework*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Thousands Oaks: Sage Publications, 2009.

In addition, students will be responsible for collecting and analyzing published literature and other documents related to the topic of their term paper.

**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" (section 4.2.8) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (section 7.1) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

**The last date for voluntary withdrawal is March 19, 2010.**