WES TERN UNIVERSITY  
De par tment of Sociology  
Sociology 2105a-001  
Sociology of Youth  
Fall 2013

Sessional Instructor: Sarah Driessens  
E-mail: sdriesse@uwo.ca  
Class time: Tuesday 9:30-11:30  
Office Hours: SSC 5209  
Class location: SSC 2028  
Tuesday 12:30 – 2:30 PM

Course Description:

This course will provide a general coverage of the literature and issues related to the sociological study of adolescence and youth. Topics covered will include: concepts and theories, a history of childhood and youth, families and socialization, education, work, gender and sexuality, peers, identity, politics, and youth culture, crime and delinquency, and health.

Note that you are responsible for reading each assigned chapter(s) before the lecture. Lectures are designed to help you understand the broad strokes of the readings, as well as fundamental issues in the field of youth studies. Relying on the lecture notes or text alone will not guarantee a ‘high’ mark on tests.

Course Objectives:

• differentiating the sociology of youth from adolescent psychology  
• understanding the origin and perpetuation of stereotypes about youth  
• knowing the difference between critical and conservative approaches  
• developing an appreciation of the place of youth in society  
• developing an understanding of the different domains of young people’s lives in Canada

Course Requirements:

Three mixed-method exams will determine the final course grade. Exams will be based on lecture material, class discussions, and assigned readings. The questions will be drawn roughly 50% from classes and 50% from readings, with some overlap. The first exam will be given in class on October 8th, 2013 and will be worth 30% of the course grade. The second exam will be given in class on November 5th, 2013 and will also be worth 30% of the course grade. The final exam will be worth 40% and is cumulative, with an emphasis placed on material you have not been tested on.

Required Reading:

Tyyskä, V. (2008). Youth and Society: The long and winding road (2nd Ed.) Canadian Scholars’ Press, Inc. (**Please be sure to purchase a 2nd Edition copy**)

Prerequisite(s): none

Class Cancellations or Changes: Regularly check the Department of Sociology web site (www.sociology.uwo.ca)
Accessing the Class Homepage via Sakai

Much of the material for this course has been placed on the class homepage established on Sakai and students are expected to log in to their OWL account (and the class homepage) during the first week of class in order to insure that everything is working properly. The homepage for this course will contain a number of different folders that will contain things like the course outline, PowerPoint slides, Grades, additional reading material, and general notes for the course.

You can access Sakai via the following website: https://owltoo.uwo.ca
Sociology of Youth: Course Outline

LECTURE OUTLINE

Week 1 (Sept. 10): Course Introduction

Week 2 (Sept. 17): Theorizing Youth: Concepts and Theories
Read before the lecture: Youth and Society Chapter 1

Week 3 (Sept. 24): Youth in Historical and Societal Context
Read before the lecture: Youth and Society Chapter 2

Week 4 (Oct. 1): Families and Socialization
Read before the lecture: Youth and Society Chapter 3

Week 5 (Oct. 8): Test In Class (worth 30%)

Week 6 (Oct. 15): Education
Read before the lecture: Youth and Society Chapter 4 and selected excerpts from Ivory Tower Blues (uploaded on Sakai)

Week 7 (Oct. 22): Work
Read before the lecture: Youth and Society Chapter 5 and selected excerpts from Ivory Tower Blues (uploaded on Sakai)

Week 8 (Oct. 29): Gender, Sexuality, Intimacy, and Individual Identities
Read before the lecture: Youth and Society Chapter 6

Week 9 (Nov. 5): Test In Class (worth 30%)

Week 10 (Nov. 12): Peers, Identity, Politics, and Youth Culture
Read before the lecture: Youth and Society Chapter 7

Week 11 (Nov. 19): Crime and Delinquency
Read before the lecture: Youth and Society Chapter 8

Week 12 (Nov. 26): Health
Read before the lecture: Youth and Society Chapter 9

Week 13 (Dec. 3): Constructing a Public Presence/ Review and Course Conclusions
Read before the lecture: Youth and Society Chapter 10
CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

Lectures in this Course
By 4:00 PM on the day before each weekly class, the PowerPoint slides for that class will be posted on the Sakai course site. Lectures assume that students have done the readings listed for each week in advance of class. Accordingly, lectures will be paced assuming that everyone has hardcopies of the slides in front of them, and are capable of making additional notes as the lecture proceeds. The format also leaves ample time and opportunity for questions and discussion.

Laptop Use
Laptops are permitted, but it is expected that students will use them to facilitate the lecture, not as an opportunity to engage in social media, e-mail, etc.

Cell Phones
Cell phones must be turned off and out of sight during class.

Grade Expectations
The following are the grade-distribution guidelines faculty members and sessional instructors must follow in the Department of Sociology.

Sociology 1020 and 1021E: A’s not to exceed B’s; Means in the range of 65-68%
**2100 and 2200 level: A’s not to exceed B’s; Means in the range of 66-70%
3300-level (including Soc 3300a and 3302b); Means in the range of 70-74%
4400-level: Means in the range of 73-78%”

Personal Contact
For simple questions, please ask me after class. For complex questions, you should see me during my office hours, or make an appointment (if you make an appointment, you are expected to keep it). Please do not email me on important matters concerning this course—speak to me in person. I will not discuss matters of grades, course content, or matters of special accommodation by e-mail. If you do e-mail me, you must use proper forms of address, punctuation, grammar, and syntax. My impressions of you will be affected by how you present yourself, whatever the form of interaction.

Office Hours
Two office hours per week are set aside for students specifically in this course to drop into my office to discuss matters related to the course. You do not need to make an appointment.
ASSESSMENT

Course Requirements
Three mixed-method exams will determine the final course grade. Exams will be based on lecture material, class discussions, and assigned readings. The questions will be drawn roughly 50% from classes and 50% from readings, with some overlap. The first exam will be given in class on October 8th, 2013 and will be worth 30% of the course grade. The second exam will be given in class on November 5th, 2013 and will also be worth 30% of the course grade. The final exam will be worth 40% and cumulative, with an emphasis placed on material you have not been tested on.

Scantron Exams
Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

~Some Notes on Multiple Choice Tests~
Please note carefully: If you have trouble with multiple-choice tests, or have issues with this being the only assessment method, this is not the course for you. I do not need to hear later in the course, or on teaching evaluations, that other testing methods should have been used. Furthermore, I am the final arbiter as to whether or not a particular question is “fair.” Because of the amount of material, the 2-hour tests could not possibly have enough questions covering everything. Accordingly, the selection of test questions constitutes a sampling of concepts, facts, theories, theorists, and statistics. Thus, all materials covered in the readings and lectures are ‘fair game’ for test questions. You need to have your own study strategies for approaching these tests. The advice I give is that when studying from the readings, you should retain what you would need to know to explain with authority in 5-10 minutes some theory or line of research to someone (think of how you might explain convincingly to your parents how much you’ve learned about something you are really interested in). When explaining something with authority, you must have supporting statistics and facts available for immediate recall, so it is not unreasonable that you should know these things for tests. Someone with a good working knowledge of the material will know what statistics need to be retained for recall in explaining something with authority.

While test questions may not always assess your knowledge at the broadest level (e.g., the characteristics of a specific theory), they will assess your knowledge of the facts associated with that knowledge. Finally, it is not usually a good idea to change your answers after you have finished a multiple-choice test. On the other hand, if you unsure about two alternatives in a specific question as you are working your way through the test, it might be useful to mark these and make your final choice after answering the other questions.
Missed Exams and Late Assignments
Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. If you cannot write a test or exam, due to medical illness, it is your responsibility to follow the University’s new “Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness”. This policy can be accessed at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf or http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp

Compassionate Grounds
Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counseling office. In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty’s Academic Counseling office. Make-up exams. You should note that make-up exams are not routine in this course. Moreover, I will not agree to provide make-ups so students can go on family holidays, attend weddings, or otherwise pursue various personal/hedonistic activities.

Note as well that while the regular exams are mixed-method format, make-up exams are essay format, requiring students to apply course material rather than simply regurgitate it. If you cannot write a test for a justifiable reason (see the university regulations above) see me in person or telephone me at the earliest possible opportunity and then obtain permission from your Faculty’s Academic Counseling Office (The office for Social Science is in Room 2105, Social Science Centre: telephone 519 661-2011 or fax 519 661-3384). Be prepared to submit documentation of your difficulties.

SUPPORT SERVICES
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Make-up Exams
Should you be granted academic accommodation by your Faculty’s counselors and myself, you will be required to complete an essay make-up exam. For the make-up essay exam you will be asked to answer two of the three questions provided to you.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.