This course examines contemporary issues in youth culture, youth crime and youth justice. The course will begin by discussing the definition of “youth” and how this concept has changed through time. The course will then address a number of contemporary youth-related topics including: 1) Trends in youth crime and reporting to the police; 2) The impact of television, movies and video games on youth behaviour; 3) The relationship between Hip Hop music, youth resistance and youth violence; 3) The causes and consequences of street gangs; 4) Race, policing and criminal justice; 5) Perceptions of social injustice, youth radicalization and crime; 6) Cyberbullying; 7) Sexting and Youth Gender Relations; 8) Recent developments in youth justice; and 9) The implementation of evidence-based youth punishment and crime prevention policies.

This course will be conducted in a seminar format. Seminars will be conducted with the assumption that students have reviewed the required readings before class. Thus, students will be expected to actively participate in class discussions and raise important issues with respect to the topics being reviewed. Furthermore, students will be asked to lead one seminar on a topic of their choice.

**Evaluation**

A) 50% of the final grade will be based on class participation, two reaction papers and an in-class presentation:

1) Attendance and participation in class discussions (10%);

2) Two reaction papers (2-4 pages in length) written for class sessions of your choice (10% each). These papers should raise questions for class discussion based on the required or supplementary readings. Reaction papers are due on the date that the topic is discussed. Reaction papers cannot be on the same topic that you select for your presentation.

3) One in-class presentation on a specific topic (20%). Presentations will be limited to no more than 20 minutes. This time limit will be strictly enforced. Presentations should promote class discussion. All presentations will take place during the first hour of class. Class discussion and debate will take place during the second half of class.
B) 50% of your final mark will be based on a major paper (15-25 pages). The paper can take one of four forms.

1) A review and evaluation of one or more theories of youth crime.

2) A review of a specific topic within the field of youth culture, youth crime or youth justice. In this review, you should examine both the theoretical background and research evidence related to your topic.

3) A research/thesis proposal for a study in the area of youth crime or justice.

4) Report findings from your own study or a secondary data analysis. A brief literature review and methodological discussion should introduce your presentation of findings. Students undertaking such a project may be granted a short extension.

**Papers are due by 4:00 pm on Friday, December 20th, 2019.** Please put a hard copy of your paper in Prof. Wortley’s mailbox at the Centre or hand it to him directly. Electronic submissions will not be accepted – except under special circumstances.

Please note that students are by no way restricted to the topics addressed during class sessions. However, it is recommended that each student discuss their topic with the instructor before they begin their paper.

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism and other academic offences will not be tolerated at the University of Toronto. Academic discipline ranges from a mark of zero on an exam or assignment to dismissal from the University.

For important information see U of T’s Academic Integrity website at: [http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/](http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/).

See also these academic integrity websites:

a) School of Graduate Studies at [http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/facultyandstaff/Pages/Academic-Integrity.aspx](http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/facultyandstaff/Pages/Academic-Integrity.aspx)

b) Faculty of Arts and Science at [http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai](http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai).
COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

ALL READINGS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE COURSE WEBSITE UNDER THE “COURSE READINGS” ICON.

**Before a reading indicates that it is optional. Although not required, these supplemental readings are listed to provide further references for students interested in particular issues. Of course, reading these supplementary articles prior to class would not hurt class discussion. All readings are available on the course website under the “Course Readings” icon.

COURSE INTRODUCTION (September 9)

- No Readings;

WEEK ONE (September 16): Defining “Youth”


WEEK TWO (September 23): Trends in Youth Crime and Crime Reporting

WEEK THREE (September 30): Movies, Video Games and Youth Violence

WEEK FOUR (October 7): Hip-Hop, Resistance and Youth Violence
OCTOBER 14TH: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEEK FIVE (October 21): Thug Life: The Causes and Consequences of Street Gangs

WEEK SIX (October 28): Race, Policing and Youth Justice
WEEK SEVEN (November 4): Perceptions of Injustice, Youth Radicalization and Crime

WEEK EIGHT (November 11): The Nature, Impact and Control of Cyberbullying
WEEK NINE (NOVEMBER 18): Youth Culture, Sexting and Gender Relations


WEEK TEN (November 25): New Directions in Youth Criminal Justice


WEEK ELEVEN (December 2): Evidence-based Youth Punishment


WEEK TWELVE (December 9): Evidence-based Youth Crime Prevention