

**Lakehead University
Department of Sociology
Sociology 2011 SDE
Youth and Canadian Society**

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Spring Semester: 2021
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Required Text

Danesi, Marcel. 2018. *From Flappers to Rappers The Origins, Evolution, and Demise of Youth Culture*. Toronto, ON: Canadian Scholars Press.

The text can be purchased in hardcopy or e-book through the Lakehead University bookstore. The text comes with a very helpful workbook.

Other readings are posted on our D2L site.

Course Description

Youth is complex both in terms of societal discourse on youth and the many transitions an individual is expected to undergo as they move from child to adult in Canadian society. This course will address: the central questions and issues surrounding youth from a sociological perspective; bodily changes as one moves from child to adult, relationship formations take on new meaning and often new forms of intimacy; life choices are made; and individuals gain more independence within a cultural milieu that shapes youth. Using a critical perspective how youth is socially constructed will be examined for its impact on the micro, macro, and meso levels. Of particular importance are youth culture and youth movements.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand the origin of youth
- Discuss youth from a life course perspective
- Explore how youth has become a prolonged period in Canada
- Examine stereotypes surrounding youth
- Explore youth culture and youth movements
- Discuss bodily changes and new relationships including intimacy
- Investigate youth crime
- Investigate sociological concepts and theories associated with youth studies
- Use your sociological imagination to explore the micro, meso, and macro world of youth
- Develop critical thinking skills

Course Requirements

Students are expected to regularly check the D2L site and actively participate in class discussions. Students are to read the textbook and online lectures, read the material in the links found in the lectures, and watch the videos listed in the online lectures. Reading assignments are to be completed for the date they are assigned. The reading

list is attached to this syllabus. This class is designed to be interactive and group discussion is a central component of the course.

This is a compressed course and we are covering in 3 weeks what we would normally cover in 3 months. If this was a face-to-face course, on campus during the spring semester, we would spend 10 hours a week in class; not including daily readings and assignments. This course is designed so that you spend 10 hours a week working on lectures, links and videos in the lectures, and answering discussion posts. The 10 hours does not include the assignment and all of the readings; some time has been allotted in the 10 hours a week to cover some of the readings.

All times for this course are Thunder Bay time, Eastern Daylight Time.

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
Midterm Examination	15	May 10, 2021
Research Project	30%	May 17, 2021
Participation	35%	Throughout the Course
Final Examination	<u>20%</u> 100%	May 22, 2021

Examinations

The midterm and final examinations will be held at 6:00 in the evening (Thunder Bay time, Eastern Time). Please note these times on your calendar as they are the only time the examinations are available. The examinations will be online. Everyone will write the examination at the same time. These are individual examinations and you are not to answer examination questions with another person. Answers to examination questions are to be based on your knowledge, using your words; you are not to google answers, copy lecture material, or other sources. You can increase your chances of doing well by reading the textbook, reading the links in the lectures, watching the videos in the lectures, carefully reading the lecture material, actively engage in online discussion with your group, and understand the material.

Examinations will incorporate lectures (including links and videos), discussions, research assignments and assigned readings.

Please note: as you have all the course material available to you, there will be no reviews. You might want to create your study notes as you go through each unit.

Participation

Participation is a significant part of your overall mark. Your participation mark is based on your contribution to group discussions and asking questions/making comments and answering questions/comments on the poster assignment. This entails fulsome responses to group discussions/poster questions/comments; stating “I agree” or “I disagree” without adding why you agree or disagree is not considered a fulsome discussion. Repeating what a group member has said in discussion

posts/questions/comments is not a fulsome discussion. Participation means engaging with the material. You are to answer each discussion question in each lecture. While you certainly can agree or disagree with a post, you need to outline your rationale for doing so. Critical thinking is not about opinions. Critical thinking is rational, unbiased, evidence-based thought.

If you are concerned you will be repeating what a group member has posted you might want to answer the question offline, cut and paste it into the discussion forum, and then comment on what your group members have said.

Each of you is randomly assigned to a discussion group forum and will work with your group throughout the course. Discussion forums can only be viewed by the members of the group and me. Respectfulness of answers is to be practiced. You do not have to agree with your classmates, you can respectfully disagree. Academia is about discourse and critical thought.

Each question, in each lecture and the questions/comments/responses on posters will be marked out of 4 possible marks, following the list below. Your answers should not only reflect that you have read the material/watched the videos in question, but have thought about and further analyzed it. Additionally, you should read the responses of your peers to avoid repeating or copying their answers, as well as to further your group discussion regarding that question.

- 0 Marks: No answer or an answer that reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of the question or content being asked about.
- 1 Mark: Answer reveals you have read the relevant material and provided an answer.
- 2 Marks: Answer shows an understanding of the material being asked about and appropriately addresses the question.
- 3 Marks: Answer illustrates a full understanding of the material and the question, as well as the capacity to engage with the discussion beyond merely answering the question.
- 4 Marks: Answer proves that you have not only understood the material and question, but are able to deeply discuss the sociological relevance provoked by the question and the material.

Discussions are not marked for length, only for content.

Discussion posts for lectures open at 8.00 am on Monday. The last posts for discussion questions, for weeks one and two, need to be made by 2.00 pm on Sunday. **To be clear, no participation marks will be assigned after 2.00 pm on Sundays for weeks one and two.** In week 3, posts will close at 2.00 pm on Friday. **To be clear, no participation marks will be assigned after 2.00 pm on Friday, week three.** I will provide a response to at least one post, per student, each week, for posts made before 5.00 pm on Wednesday.

While you are to read all the posters, you are to select 15 of your classmates' poster assignments to read in-depth and ask questions/make comments on these. As well, you are to answer questions/comments asked of your poster. Please ask questions/make comments of the posters of your group members before examining the posters of those in other groups. Doing so ensures everyone has questions/comments to address and everyone's work is read in-depth by some classmates. Respectfulness is expected when asking questions/making comments or responding to questions/comments. Questions/comments/responses are to be fulsome. Saying nice colours is not a fulsome comment.

Participation marks will be posted each week. Please note the grade as it will be deleted when the grade is updated.

Research Project

Throughout his book Danesi speaks of youth social movements. Youth involved in social movements provides an interesting opportunity to examine youth. The intriguing aspect of youth social movements is it is youth transforming society through social action.

Your assignment is to design a poster focusing on a youth social movement. The poster will include how the movement started, what those involved hoped to gain, how the movement took shape, what specifically did the movement do, were they successful, and are they still active. You might also include any interesting facts and fun facts you find. Danesi, in his discussion of youth social movements makes mention of common language in youth social movements and styles of dress; this may or may not be applicable to your topic. You are to reference your sources and include a reference page in your poster or attach the reference page as a separate document. All sources in the poster are to be fully cited; not just direct quotes. For example, intext citations should be (Smith, 1927: 36).

You need to use a minimum of 6 sources for your assignment. Three of the sources must be academic sources. Simply finding 6 sources on the internet is not sufficient. As this is a research project make use of research skills and find your information from a variety of sources; books on the social movement, journal articles, newspaper articles, organizational mandates, etc.

Danesi provides examples of youth social movements and there are many others. You can google youth social movements to look at the numerous youth social movements that are currently active or were active in the past.

Some Examples of Youth Social Movements:

Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA)

Grassy Narrows Protest Against Mercury Poisoning

Idle No More

#Never Again Movement

Beatniks

#Becca Told Me To Movement

You do not have to use the examples in Danesi or the ones I list above, you can choose any youth social movement from the past or present.

The research projects will be posted for the entire class to read. There will be time devoted to reading the posters, posing questions, and answering questions. Research Projects are to be posted by 9.00 am on May 17, 2021. Posters posted after 9.00 am May 17 and before 9.00 am on May 18, 2021 will be docked 5 late marks. Should you submit your poster any time after 9.00 am and before 6.00 pm on May 18, 2021 you will be docked 10 late marks. No posters will be accepted after 6.00 pm on May 18, 2021.

There will be a forum set up to post your poster. Classmates can ask questions or make comments simply by hitting reply under your posting and you can make your response in the same way. Responding in this way keeps all questions/comments/responses in one place, which makes it easier for all concerned. You can post your poster beginning May 15 at 8.00 am. Comments to posters can begin on May 17 at any time. Questions/comments must be made prior to Friday, May 20, 2021 at 2.00 pm.

If you were handing in a hardcopy of the poster it would be on standard Bristol board, which is 22 X 28 inches; this is the size your poster is to be. You will be creating your poster online, based on the instructions found in content. You are to use the site posted in the link or google docs to create your poster. There is an example, crafted by Graduate Assistant, Ms. Sierra Korczynski to help you.

Remember to post your poster in the poster forum specifically designed for posters. You also need to post your poster in assignments. The poster will be graded in the assignment folder and only you can see the comments and grade in the assignment folder. Should you choose not to submit your poster in the assignment folder, on or before 6.00 pm on May 18, 2021, no comments will be made on your poster, your grade will appear in myinfo.

American Sociological Association (ASA)

All assignments in the Department of Sociology are to follow the ASA (American Sociological Association) style guide. The guide can be accessed on the web. Google ASA Style Guide and a number of examples will be available for you to choose from.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is unacceptable and subject to various sanctions. Please see the university regulations section on academic dishonesty in the [Lakehead University Calendar](#).

Please use Lakehead Email to converse with me lforbes@lakeheadu.ca . Any notices I send will be through your Lakehead Email account.

I will be online often reading posts. Should you need any assistance or have a question I am only an email away and happy to help/answer questions.

Lecture and Reading Schedule Spring Semester 2021

Week 1 May 3 to May 9

Let's get started! Jump in and introduce yourself to your group members and begin answering discussion questions.

Lecture 1: Introduction to Youth and Canadian Society

Reading: Danesi Chapter 1

Reading: Workbook Chapter 1

Lecture 2: Historical Perspectives on Youth

Reading: Danesi Chapter 2

Reading: Workbook Chapter 2

Lecture 3: Socialization

Reading: Danesi Chapter 3

Reading: Workbook Chapter 3

Discussion forum for week 1 will open Monday, May 3 at 8.00 am and you can post until 2.00 pm on Sunday, May 9.

Remember the Midterm is May 10, 2021 at 6.00 pm Thunder Bay time.

Week 2 May 10 to May 16

Lecture 4: Body Image, Intimacy, and Health

Reading: Danesi Chapter 4

Reading: Workbook Chapter 4

Lecture 5: Education, Work, and Policy

Reading: Danesi Chapter 5

Reading: Workbook Chapter 5

Lecture 6: Crime

Reading: Danesi Chapter 6

Reading: Workbook Chapter 6

Discussion forum for week 2 will open Monday, May 10 at 8.00 am and you can post until 2.00 pm on Sunday, May 16.

Week 3: May 17 to May 21

Lecture 7: Identity, Media, and Youth Culture

Read the posters and ask and answer questions on the posters.

Poster Forum will open on Monday, May 17, at 8.00 am. You can post questions until Friday, May 21 at 2.00 pm.

Discussion forum for week 3 will open Monday, May 17 at 8.00 am and you can post until 2.00 pm on Friday, May 21.

Remember the final exam is May 22 at 6.00 pm, Thunder Bay time.