

**Lakehead University  
Department of Sociology  
Sociology 2112 SDE  
Youth and Canadian Society**

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**Spring Semester: 2020**  
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**Required Texts**

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.

**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 read the textbook and online lectures, read the material in the links found in the modules, watch the videos listed in the online modules, and participate actively in your online group.

**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 Danesi readings and work on your assignment.**

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
Midterm Examination	20%	June 1, 2020
Poster Assignment	30%	June 8, 2020
Final Examination	15%	June 13, 2020
Participation	<u>35%</u>	Throughout the course
	100%	

### 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. You can increase your chances of doing well by reading the textbook, reading the links in the modules, watching the videos in the modules, 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.

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.

### 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.

For weeks one and two the discussion posts open at 8.00 am on Monday and the last posts need to be made by 8.00 pm the following Sunday. The discussion posts will stay open until 11.30 for those who want to read the last postings. **To be clear, no participation marks will be assigned after 8.00 pm on Sunday of weeks one and two.** During the last week of classes lectures will open on Monday, June 8, at 8.00 am and close on Friday June 12, at 8.00 pm. **To be clear, during the last week of classes, no participation marks will be assigned after 8.00 pm on Friday, June 12.**

While you are to read all the posters, you are to select at least 15 of your classmates' poster assignments to read in-depth and ask questions/make comments on. 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. Posting you like the layout of a poster or the colours used without discussing content is not a fulsome post.

There is a discussion forum set up to post your poster. Classmates can ask questions or make comments simply by hitting reply under your posting of your poster and you can make your responses 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 assignment beginning June 6 at 8.00 am. Comments to posters can begin on June 8 at any time. As students are expected to respond to questions posed about their posters, please do not post questions for your colleagues after 4.00 pm, on June 12.

Each question, in each lecture and the questions/comments 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.

### **Poster Assignment**

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 need to use a minimum of 6 sources for your assignment and 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.

You need to cite all sources used. You can do this by using a footnote style and assign a number to each citation and provide a separate page with citations or cite them at the end of your poster; full citations are required. Alternatively, you can cite in the body of the poster and include a bibliography. **All sources in the poster are to be cited. Posters without citations throughout the poster will be assigned a grade of zero.**

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.

Google has a number of sites that tell you how to design a poster. Type in academic posters and you will find a number of examples. 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. If you type in how to make a poster online it will bring you to sites that you can use for free.

The due date of your research project is June 8 at 9.00 am. Any assignment handed in after this time will be docked 5 late marks. An additional 5 marks will be docked if the assignment is handed in any time after 9.00 am June 9. Late assignments will be not be accepted after 6.00 pm on June 9.

Remember to post your poster in the open 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.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Weekly Schedule**

#### **Week 1 May 25 to May 31**

Lecture 1: Introduction to Youth and Canadian Society – Reading Danesi Chapter 1, Workbook Chapter 1

Lecture 2: Historical Perspectives on Youth – Reading Danesi Chapter 2, Workbook Chapter 2

Lecture 3: Socialization – Reading Danesi Chapter 3, Workbook Chapter 3

#### **Week 2 June 1 to June 7**

Midterm Examination **June 1 at 6.00 pm**

Lecture 4: Body Image, Intimacy, and Health – Reading Danesi Chapter 4, Workbook Chapter 4

Lecture 5: Education, Work, and Policy – Reading Danesi Chapter 5, Workbook Chapter 5

Lecture 6: Crime – Reading Danesi Chapter 6, Workbook Chapter 6

**Week 3 June 8 to June 12**

Lecture 7: Identity, Media, and Youth Culture

Read Poster Assignments

**Final Exam June 13 at 6.00 pm**