

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH**  
**College of Social and Applied Human Sciences**  
**Department of Sociology and Anthropology**  
**Winter 2022**  
**SOAN4320 Transition from School to Work**

**Instructor:** Deidre Rose

**Class meetings:** Tuesday 7- 9:50 PM, ALEX309

**Office Hours:** TBA

**Email:** derose@uoguelph.ca

**Course Description:** This applied course examines the evolving research and models in the transitions from school to work area. There is an evolving literature in this area based, in part, on the successful application of research in the transition from high school to postsecondary education. This 'capstone' course also considers the practical issues involved in making such a move, considering the knowledge, skills, and values needed by university students to succeed in the modern workplace (public, private, and not-for-profit sectors) in Canada. Academic career paths will also be discussed. Students will complete an "Action Sociology/Anthropology Project," as well as a "Skills Portfolio," and other work related to their own transition and aspirations.

**Format:** Seminar

To succeed in this class, students are expected to attend all classes, read all assigned material before class and to come prepared for each class and **actively participate** in the discussion of the issues at hand. Students will be given opportunities to work on practical assignments that will help get them ready for their own transition from school to work.

**Learning Objectives and Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have

- Acquired an appreciation of the literature on transitions, with a special emphasis on the transition from university to career.
- Obtained research, writing, and presentation experience.
- Evaluated their own skills as acquired throughout their tenure as undergraduate students.
- Developed an appreciation of the value of a social science education in relation to their career aspirations.
- Learned how to articulate their skill set to potential employers, including graduate studies departments.
- Learned how to demonstrate the value of their education to potential employers, including graduate studies departments.
- Acquired an understanding of the contemporary job market, with a focus on opportunities for people with a degree in Social Science.
- Acquired experience working with a team.
- Learned about the different roles people take in a team project.

- Participated in a social action project.
- Compiled a professional portfolio highlighting their competencies and skills.
- Demonstrated professional conduct in communications and timely completion of course assignments.

**Required Readings:**

Water, Mary C, Patrick Carr, Kefalas, Maria, and Jennifer Ann Holdaway eds. 2011. *Coming of Age in America: The Transition to Adulthood in the Twenty-First Century*. University of California Press

Select On-line articles (available through CourseLink or ARES).

**Evaluation:**

Reflections on transitions and capacities	(3@10%)	30 %
Seminar participation		20 %
Class presentation (Action Project)		25 %
Skills Portfolio		25 %

**Courselink**

A courselink site has been set up for this course. The site includes a number of resources, including discussion forums dedicated to each group.

A selected list of additional required readings will be available through ARES