**SOC 4460 / Youth and Violence / Fall 2023**

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**Instructor:** Dr. Steph Howells **Email:** [showells@uoguelph.ca](mailto:showells@uoguelph.ca)

**Course Overview:**

This course explores youth and violence with a focus on schools. We will explore the occurrence of youth violence in schools (i.e., bullying and school shootings); how Canada’s juvenile justice system and policies impact schools and youth; and the influence other social institutions such as media (including social media), family, and police have on youth violence especially as it pertains to schools.

In this course, we will explore how youth violence in schools is related to the three main functions of schooling – socialization, selection, and legitimation. We focus on the causes of, and potential solutions to violence stemming from inside the school (school climate and culture) and outside of the school (neighbourhood effects). We explore various governmental and school-based policies designed to address issues of school violence and their unintended outcomes, such as the school-to-prison pipeline.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

* Critically reflect on culture, social relations and social structures in order to develop a broader and deeper understanding of social problems as they relate to youth and violence.
* Write clearly, professionally, and with precision while addressing complex or sensitive issues.
* Communicate effectively, accurately and professionally, in traditional and innovative written and oral forms, including visual and technological.
* Develop and practice intellectual curiosity, problem-solving, goal setting, decision-making, speaking and listening skills.
* Demonstrate personal, professional, and academic integrity and ethical reasoning.
* Demonstrate leadership, teamwork, accountability, personal organization and time management.

**Evaluation:**

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| Engagement & Participation | 20% | Weekly / Cumulative |
| Perusall Reading | 10% | Weekly / Cumulative |
| Knowledge Integration Assignment | 20% | Sign up on CourseLink for presentation date |
| Essay Proposal | 15% | Deadline TBD |
| PEAR Review | 5% | Deadline TBD |
| 3 minute thesis presentation | 5% | Last day of class |
| Final Research Essay | 25% | Deadline TBD |

**Readings:**

All readings will be available through ARES, through the library e-journals, or on CourseLink.

*I reserve the right to make changes to modify elements of this outline; a complete outline will be provided on the first day of class.*