

University of Guelph
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Drugs & Society
SOC*4350

Winter 2023

Instructor: Dr. Gregory Cullen

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Office: MACK - 644

Office Hours: TBD

Location: Fridays, 11:30 am – 2:20 pm / GRHM 2302

Course Description

The objective of this seminar is to critically examine sociological perspectives on substance use behaviour and legal-policy debates concerning psychoactive drug use. We will explore a wide array of topics that relate to the construction of drug problems in society—including historical and cultural and regulatory aspects, links between drugs and crime/violence, drugs and health, how responses to drugs are politically and economically informed, the rise and implications of the war on drugs, and the role that the war on drugs continues to play in the mass incarceration of racialized groups in Canada. Students will also learn about the current climate of drugs and drug use in Canada, including current trends and the “normalization” of drug use in North America. By the end of the course students will have the foundation needed to think critically about issues surrounding drug use and its control in society today.

Evaluation Grades:

Term Paper (30%)

Term Paper Proposal (15%)

Presentation (25%)

Participation (20%)

Weekly Discussion Questions (10%)