**University of Guelph**

**Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

**SOC4470 – Youth Conflict in Law**

**Winter 2023**

This course examines the sociology of youth crime and delinquency. This course provides a comprehensive understanding of issues facing at-risk youth in Canada. Emphasis will be given to contemporary issues in Canadian youth justice. Topics include the social construction of youth deviance, theoretical understandings of juvenile delinquency, as well as the changing philosophies that shape our official and legislative responses to youth crime. We will study important correlates of youth crime, such as the peer group, social disadvantage, and mental health. We will also examine special populations of at-risk youth, such as girls, racialized youth, Indigenous youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, and youth experiencing homelessness. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to critically assess the official and legal responses to youth crime as well as to consider implications for social policy, and the potential impacts upon youth who may come into conflict with the law.