**University of Guelph**

**Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

**SOC 4470 – Youth Conflict in Law**

**Winter 2024**

This course examines the sociology of youth crime and delinquency. This course provides a comprehensive understanding of issues facing high acuity 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 high acuity youth, such as girls, racialized youth, Indigenous youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, and youth experiencing homelessness. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to critically assess the responses to youth crime as well as to consider implications for social policy and impacts upon youth who may come into conflict with the law.

SOC 4470 is a reading-intensive, participation-based, 1.0 credit course. This is not a lecture-based class. Class time will employ a seminar-style approach and will be centered around peer-led in-depth discussion of the readings. While scheduled to have in-person delivery, synchronous hybrid options may be available.

Evaluation for this seminar style fourth year course includes written work (an outline and paper), a presentation, and weekly reading questions, peer evaluations, and in-class participation.