



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Moral Regulation
SOC*4480 (01)
Fall 2021

Class: Fridays 11:30am–14:20pm

Instructor: Dr. John R. Ferguson
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Course Description

Societies have always required cooperation and control. The relationship between moral advocacy and social control is complex. In this course, we consider contemporary literature and critical perspectives on the evolving concept of moral regulation and social control. How do ideas about “proper,” “acceptable” behaviour come to control us through informal and formal sanctions? What role do they play in controlling and co-ordinating societies? We will look at theoretical and substantive contributions with particular attention to Canadian examples. Selections from the literature will be reviewed by students with the aim to build on historical case studies by exploring current applications of these concepts. Topics of discussion include the moral entrepreneurship, moral panic, moral (and legal) control (and criminalization) of gender, race, ethnicity, immigration, homelessness, sex work, sexuality, abortion, drug use, poverty, immigration, mental health, etc.

**Note: this is an In-Class full (double) credit course with corresponding workload and expectations.

Required Reading:

Amanda Glasbeek. 2006. *Moral Regulation and Governance in Canada: History, Context, and Critical Issues*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars’ Press.

Deborah Brock, Amanda Glasbeek, and Carmela Murdocca. 2014. *Criminalization, Representation, Regulation: Thinking Differently About Crime*. University of Toronto Press.
Other readings are available online through ARES Course Reserves.

Evaluation May Include: Participation, Weekly Assignments, Written Submissions, Quizzes, Presentations, Peer Evaluations, Written Research Paper(s)/Submission(s).

Note: This draft outline is for informational purposes only and may change at the instructor’s discretion. A complete syllabus will be shared during the first class.