

University of Guelph
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
SOC 4500 (1)
Crime and Social Exclusion
Winter, 2024
Instructor: W. O'Grady
Office: 639 MCKN
E-Mail: wogrady@uoguelph.ca

Course Description

Sociology 4500 is an advanced undergraduate course that is designed to introduce students to selected topics on homelessness, with a focus on homelessness and the criminal justice system. Organized largely on the basis of student seminar presentations, the course will review trends, theory and research on the ways in which homeless people come into contact with the police, courts and correctional system. Questions to be addressed in the course will include: How and why have laws emerged to control the activities of homeless people? What is the relationship between homelessness, crime and criminal victimization? Do homeless people seek support from the police when they are victims of crime? What is the relationship between homelessness and incarceration? Is homelessness being criminalized?

The course will also address a number of key contextual issues that are more generally related to homelessness which need to be considered to better understand why legal responses to homelessness are on the rise. The course will therefore examine the ways in which homelessness is defined, populations who are at risk of becoming homeless, and address why levels of homelessness have grown in many western societies in recent years, including Canada.

Required Readings: TBA

Evaluation:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Term test..... | 15% |
| Seminar presentation..... | 20% |
| Term Paper..... | 30% |
| Class Participation..... | 10% |
| Final Exam..... | 25% |