

Walls to Bridges (W2B) Course
PHIL/SOCY 406
Winter 2027

Class meets weekly at Collins Bay Medium Security Institution
(1455 Bath Road, Kingston)

Walls to Bridges is an experiential learning course that brings together students from Queen's University ('outside students') with students from Collins Bay prison ('inside students') to learn and share knowledge based on their lived experience and critical analysis of academic scholarship. In this course, students will explore the complexities of Black masculinity, criminalization and punishment through reflection, discussion, reading, and activity-based learning. This is a transformational educational experience that draws upon lived experience as a source of philosophical knowledge and challenges the artificial boundaries between people who are experiencing imprisonment and those who are not.

The course uses a learning circle format. An agenda will be prepared to guide the class discussion; however, the class is expected to lead the discussion, reflecting upon course readings and connecting the content of these readings to lived experiences. Group work, active participation and open listening are essential components of the course.

See <http://wallstobridges.ca> for more information about the W2B program. You can read about the Fall 2022 W2B course [here](#).

Essential information

- Enrolment is limited. There is a two-stage application process for students from Queen's (written application and zoom interview).
- All students must commit to attend and actively participate in each and every class.
- Outside students must consent to security clearance procedures required by the Correctional Services of Canada (including fingerprinting).
- Outside students must provide their own transportation to Collins Bay Institution (1455 Bath Road, Kingston; the 701 express bus stops nearby, and carpooling may be arranged).

Please see the [Philosophy](#) and [Sociology](#) websites for the course application. Applications must be received by Dr. Dalitso Ruwe at d.ruwe@queensu.ca no later than **5pm on July 31, 2026**. Zoom interviews will be scheduled for early August.

