

## **Fall 2026 Application**

### **Walls to Bridges (W2B): Othering through social control and marginalization**

**SOCY406/PHIL406**

**Professor Nicole Myers**

Walls to Bridges is an experiential learning course that brings together students from Queen's University ('outside students') with students from a local federal 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 criminalization and punishment through lived experiences and intersectional analyses. This is a transformational educational experience which draws upon lived experience as a source of theorizing as well as challenges the artificial boundaries between people experiencing imprisonment and those who are not.

Walls to Bridges (W2B) is based on the idea that everyone has something to teach and something to learn. It is not a lecture course. Students must come to class ready to share their perspectives on the readings and to engage in activities that are designed to help us connect readings to our different lived experiences. The course uses a learning circle format. An agenda will be prepared to guide the class discussion; however, students are expected to lead the discussion by reflecting on and incorporating the course readings and 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.

### **W2B: Othering through social control and marginalization**

This course explores the subject of "*othering*" and the divisive mentalities of "us versus them". Through in-class activities, readings, group discussions, writing assignments, and a group project based on academic literature and lived experiences, we will deconstruct the '*other*' in relation to race, gender, class and poverty in the criminal justice system and the community. Students will consider how we (individually and collectively) actively engage in othering, how it works, as well as what we are trying to protect/defend by othering. We will unpack the othering process and how we mobilize our privilege (consciously or not) to cast certain groups as different or dangerous. We will also discuss how we can resist and ameliorate othering to move towards a more inclusive, just and fair society.

### **Essential information**

- Enrolment is limited to 10 outside Queen's students.
- There is a 2 stage application process- written application (see questions below) and verbal interview (only for those selected)
- Commitment to attend and actively participate in every class (Fall term- Wednesdays approximately 12:30-3:30pm)

- Consent to security clearance by the Correctional Services of Canada (including fingerprinting- applicant bears the cost of this screening, approximately \$30-\$80)
- Ability to provide own transportation to Collins Bay Minimum (1455 Bath Road, Kingston)

**Application process**

Students from SOCY or PHIL can apply to either SOCY/PHIL 406 (taught by Dr. Nicole Myers in Sociology in Sep 2026) or PHIL/SOCY 407 (taught by Dr. Dalitso Ruwe in Philosophy in Jan 2027).

To apply to SOCY/PHIL 406 taught by Dr. Myers in the Fall 2026 submit your application to Michelle Underhill at [michelle.underhill@queensu.ca](mailto:michelle.underhill@queensu.ca) with 'W2B Application' in the subject line and your last name, first name as the attachment name by **5:00pm EST on 17 April 2026.**

*Late applications will not be considered.*

**Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.** Due to the number of applications individual feedback will not be provided.

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**W2B Application**

Name:	Student number:	Date of birth:
Major:	Minor:	GPA:
Email:	Phone number:	

**Answer each question in 2-4 sentences.**

- 1) What criminology/law/social justice/or other relevant courses have you taken?
- 2) What interests you about this specific course? What do you think this unique course will offer you?
- 3) What do you bring to the class? For example, special knowledge or experiences.
- 4) Describe the similarities and differences between inside and outside students.
- 5) Describe a time you or someone you know were 'othered'/treated as 'other'.
- 6) What do you think will be the most challenging issue for you in this class?