**W2B: Socio-Legal Issues, Othering in Criminal Justice**

**March 2021**

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.

See <http://wallstobridges.ca> for more information about the W2B program.

**Essential information**

* Enrolment is limited to 10 outside Queen’s students.
* 2 stage application process- application and interview
* Commitment to attend and actively participate in each and every class
* Consent to security clearance by the Correctional Services of Canada (including fingerprinting)
* Ability to provide own transportation to Collins Bay Minimum (1455 Bath Road, Kingston)

Please see Sociology website <https://www.queensu.ca/sociology/home> for the course application. Applications must be received by Dr. Myers at nicole.myers@queensu.ca no later than **5pm on 30 April 2021**. Interviews will be scheduled for mid-May. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

**Course**

This course explores the subject of **“*Othering”***and the divisive mentalities that pit groups in opposition to one another (us versus them). There will be a particular focus on the deconstruction of the *'other'* in relation to race, gender, class and poverty in the criminal justice system and the community. Students will be asked to 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. Discussion of how we can resist othering will also be encouraged.

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 and incorporating the course readings and lived experiences. Group work, active participation and open listening are essential components of the course.