CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

SOCI 3410B
WINTER 2022
WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

Instructor: Darryl Davies
Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Schedule: Lectures will be posted Thursdays by 6pm
Method of Delivery: Asynchronous

Course Description: In this class, the factors that have been directly linked to wrongful conviction cases will be examined and analyzed. We will look at Canadian and American cases to see how often wrongful convictions occur and in particular what implications they have for accused persons who are subsequently exonerated. We will attempt to answer a variety of questions such as: What impact do wrongful conviction cases have on the credibility of the criminal justice system? How does the state and the justice system respond when people complain that they have been wrongfully convicted? What role do the police, crown attorneys, judiciary and the corrections system play in wrongful conviction cases? What impact do wrongful convictions have on the lives of people once they are proclaimed innocent and released from prison? Finally, what can we do to reduce the likelihood that people will be wrongfully convicted by the criminal justice system in the future?
Prerequisites: SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003 [1.0], or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002, and third-year standing

Reading (s)/Textbook (s):
Anderson Barry, Anderson Dawn: 'Manufacturing Guilt: Wrongful Convictions in Canada, Fernwood Publishing, 2009.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:
- Midterm 40%
- Final exam 60%