



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2022

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Legal Studies			
Course Number	LWSO 201		
Pre/Co-Requisites	N/A		
Instructor Name	Dr. Qian Liu	Email	qian.liu2@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line, and include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. All emails violating customary email conventions will be ignored. All other emails will be answered within one business day. I do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will not be answered. Also, please e-mail me for administrative purposes only. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office visit, if there is something you want to discuss. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.		
Office Location	virtual	Office Hours	Thursdays 11:00- 13:00 (virtual office hours) Please use the link posted on D2L to book an appointment at least 24 hours in advance (no office hours on exam dates).
Telephone No.	403-220-6512		
TA Name	J Overholser	TA Email	j.overholser@ucalgary.ca
TA Office Location		TA Office Hours	
Class Dates	January 10 to April 12, 2022		
Class Times	Tuesdays and Thursdays 09:30 - 10:45		
Class Location	ICT 102		

Course Description


Law is everywhere. Law shapes our day to day lives in countless way. This course examines the connections and relationships of law and society using an interdisciplinary social science approach. We will consider how law shapes, and is shaped by, the social, political, and cultural contexts in which it exists. We will examine law and society questions such as: What is Law? How does law operate? How are law and everyday life intertwined? Can law change society? What can we learn from the disparity between abstract law and real law? How does law treat issues of race and ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation?

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This course is intended to foster critical reading, thinking, and writing skills to discuss broad, interdisciplinary questions of social justice and the law. The readings, lectures, papers, and examinations are designed to achieve the following goals:

- Learning about and questioning the role of law in society;
- Employing an interdisciplinary approach to sociolegal studies;
- Comparing social science theories of law;
- Applying these methods of analysis to real world problems.


Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

 Kitty Calavita. 2016. *Invitation to Law & Society: An Introduction to the Study of Real Law*, Second Edition, Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.

[Available in hard copy or in digital format.]

 Steven Vago et al. 2018. *Law and Society*, Fifth Canadian Edition, New York and London: Routledge.

[Available in hard copy or in digital format.]

 Several online journal articles and book chapters will be available on D2L.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Part One: Locating Law and Ourselves

Law, say the gardeners, is the sun.

Law is the one







All gardeners obey

To-morrow, yesterday, to-day.

--W.H. Auden (1939)

January 11
Tuesday

Welcome to LWSO 201: Introduction and Mutual Expectations
 **No reading**

January 13 Thursday	Introduction to Law and Society  Vago et al., Chapter 1: Introduction (pp. ix to 24)  Calavita, Chapter 1: Introduction (pp. 1-10)
January 18 Tuesday	Law in Everyday Lives  Calavita, Chapter 3: Law in Everyday, Everywhere  Alan Smart, "Anthropology of Law," in Lene Pedersen and Lisa Cliggett, eds. <i>The Sage Handbook of Cultural Anthropology</i> , read these three sections: "What is law?", "A brief history of the anthropology of law," and "dispute settlement." Available on D2L-Reading List (Leganto).
January 20 Thursday	Everyday Law  Michael Reisman (1985), " <i>Lining Up: The Microlegal System of Queues</i> ," 54 <i>University of Cincinnati Law Review</i> 417-449.
January 25 Tuesday	Legal Consciousness  Patricia Ewick & Susan Silbey. (1998). The Common Place of Law, Chapter Three: The Social Construction of Legality, pp. 33-53. Available on D2L-Reading List (Leganto).
January 27 Thursday	Finding Law in our Communities No readings – working on your assignment.
February 1	Test One (online via D2L) The first test will cover what we have studied so far.

Part Two: Theoretical Foundations of Law and Society

Law, says the judge as he looks down his nose,

Speaking clearly and most severely,

Law is as I've told you before,

Law is as you know I suppose,

Law is but let me explain it once more,

Law is The Law.

Yet law-abiding scholars write:

Law is neither wrong nor right,

Law is only crime







Punished by place and by times,

Law is the clothes men wear

Anytime, anywhere,

Law is Good-morning and Good-night.

--W.H. Auden (1939)

February 3 Thursday	Too many theories, too scary? Guest Lecture: How to Read Critically for Information No readings
February 8 Tuesday	Classic Legal Theorizing  Vago et al., Chapter 2 Theoretical Perspectives pp. 25-57;
February 10 Thursday	Law-on-the-book and Law-in-action  Calavita, Chapter 6: The Talk versus the Walk of Law.
February 15 Tuesday	Wait! But you haven't told me where to find law on the book! Guest lecture: How to use the Law Library and Legal Databases No readings
February 17 Thursday	Legal Pluralism  Calavita, Chapter 5: Many Laws, Many Orders  <u>Optional</u> : Sally Engle Merry (1988), "Legal Pluralism," 22:5 Law and Society Review 869-892.
Reading Break no class	
March 1 Tuesday	Critical Race Theory  Calavita, Chapter 4: The Color of Law
March 3 Thursday	Feminist Legal Theory  Susan Boyd & Debra Parkes. (2017). "Looking Back, Looking Forward: Feminist Legal Scholarship in SLS," Social & Legal Studies 26 (6): 735-756.
March 8 Tuesday	Rethinking everyday life from a legal theoretical lens No readings- working on your assignment.
March 10 Thursday	Test Two Test Two will focus on material covered in Part Two.

Part Three: Law's Relationship to Society

Others say, Law is our Fate:

Others say, Law is our State;

Others say, others say

Law is no more

Law has gone away.

--W.H. Auden (1939)

March 15 Tuesday	Law and Social Justice 📖 Calavita, Chapter 7: Law and Social Justice
March 17 Thursday	Law and Social Control 📖 Vago et al., Chapter 5: Law and Social Control pp 137-164
March 22 Tuesday	Law and Dispute Resolution 📖 Vago et al., 6: Law and Dispute Resolution pp. 179-190; 197-199 📖 David M. Engel. (2016) "Like it or Lump it," in David Engel. <i>The Myth of the Litigious Society: Why We Don't Sue</i> . Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, pp. 20-36. Available on D2L-Reading List (Leganto).
March 24 Thursday	Law and Popular Resistance 📖 Lynette Chua. (2012) "Pragmatic Resistance, Law, and Social Movements in Authoritarian States: The Case of Gay Collective Action in Singapore," <i>Law and Society Review</i> 46 (4), pp. 713-748.
March 29 Tuesday	Law and Social Change 📖 Vago et al., Chapter 7: Law and Social Change 215-247.
March 31 Thursday	Carrying LWSO 201 Forward 📖 Vago et al., Chapter 9: Researching Law in Society 289-308.
April 5 Tuesday	Rethinking Law in Society No readings- working on your assignment.
April 7 Thursday	Test Three Test Three will covered materials in Part Three

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

Test One	25%	<p>Your Test One will cover what we study together in Part One of this course. It will consist of multiple-choice questions and true or false questions. It is a closed-book/closed-note exam, meaning that you cannot use any sources during your exam.</p> <p>This timed assessment will be available on D2L at the beginning of class on February 1 at 9 am and will be available for 24 hours. When you access the assessment, you will have the length of the class [i.e. 75 minutes] to complete and submit it. This assessment will consist of multiple-choice questions and true or false questions. If you experience an issue that affects your ability to complete the assessment, which can include (but is not limited to) issues with technology, caregiving responsibilities, or distractions within your test-taking environment, you will need to contact your instructor as soon as possible to arrange an alternate or (in the case of technical issues) extended time to write the assessment.</p>
Test Two	25%	<p>Your Test Two will cover what we study together in Part Two of this course. It will consist of multiple-choice questions and true or false questions. It is a closed-book/closed-note exam, meaning that you cannot use any sources during your exam.</p>

		<p>Test Two will be available to you both in person and online. I will be handing out physical copies of the exam during our class time on March 10 if you choose to come and write it in person. If you prefer to do it online, this timed assessment will be available on D2L at the beginning of class on March 10 at 9:30 am and will be available for 24 hours. When you access the assessment, you will have the length of the class [i.e. 75 minutes] to complete and submit it. This assessment will consist of multiple-choice questions and true or false questions. If you experience an issue that affects your ability to complete the assessment, which can include (but is not limited to) issues with technology, caregiving responsibilities, or distractions within your test-taking environment, you will need to contact your instructor as soon as possible to arrange an alternate or (in the case of technical issues) extended time to write the assessment.</p>
Test Three	15%	<p>Your Test Three will cover what we study together in Part Three of this course. It will consist of multiple-choice questions and true or false questions. It is a closed-book/closed-note exam, meaning that you cannot use any sources during your exam.</p> <p>Test Three will be available to you both in person and online. I will be handing out physical copies of the exam during our class time on April 7 if you choose to come and write it in person. If you prefer to do it online, this timed assessment will be available on D2L at the beginning of class on April 7 at 9:30 am and will be available for 24 hours. When you access the assessment, you will have the length of the class [i.e. 75 minutes] to complete and submit it. This assessment will consist of multiple-choice questions and true or false questions. If you experience an issue that affects your ability to complete the assessment, which can include (but is not limited to) issues with technology, caregiving responsibilities, or distractions within your test-taking environment, you will need to contact your instructor as soon as possible to arrange an alternate or (in the case of technical issues) extended time to write the assessment.</p>
Three Short Essays	10% *3 = 30%	<p>Write a short essay for each part to connect what you have learned with your everyday experience with law (2 pages maximum; double-spaced; formatted in Times New Roman 12 points font).</p> <p>Assignment 1: Finding Law in our Communities (Due Feb 2 at 11:59 pm –D2L dropbox)</p> <p>Assignment 2: Rethinking Everyday Life from a Legal Theoretical Perspective (Due March 14 at 11:59 pm – D2L dropbox)</p> <p>Assignment 3: Rethinking Law in Society (Due April 11 at 11:59 pm – D2L dropbox)</p> <p>Please note that you do not have to wait until the end of each part to write your essay and that early submissions are encouraged.</p>
Self-reflection	5%	<p>Your self-reflection for each part will be submitted via D2L dropbox no later than one week after each test. There will be three self-reflection in</p>

		total. Missing one will lead to 2% deduction. Your self-reflection is for YOU, so feel free to write or draw whatever makes sense to you.
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Final Exam Information

No final exams.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss their work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private

information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Faculty Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf> and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed, or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Libraries & Cultural Resources

To contact your librarian or find out about the resources and services available to sociology students go to the Sociology Library guide: <https://library.ucalgary.ca/guides/sociology>

To access the main Library website, go to: <https://library.ucalgary.ca>

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds> or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca.

Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca>.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees, from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

<https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points>

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use

any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.
Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.