

**Law and Society 201 – Lecture 01**  
**Introduction to Legal Studies**  
Spring 2015  
**MW 09:00 – 11:45**  
**ST132**

**Instructor:** Sharon Ramraj-Thompson

**Office** SS307  
**Location:**

**Office** n/a  
**Phone:**  
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**Office**

**Hours:** W 11:45 to 12:30 or by appointment

**Course Description**

This is an introductory course in the Law and Society Program. It will provide you with both a theoretical and practical framework with which to examine specific issues in Canadian law. The texts chosen will enable us to analyze historical and international sociocultural influences in the formation of Canadian legal culture.

The course will examine both literary (imaginative) and theoretical perceptions of law and legal systems in our society. The literary and theoretical texts complement each other and will allow us to see how our legal system administers justice and fairness, how our trial systems have evolved, and how law should and does impose structures and rules in society.

We will begin our study of the literary (imaginative) texts with short excerpts from the *Bible*, which sets up a basis for Law and Authority. We will proceed to examine Thomas Hardy's "The Three Strangers" (1883), which questions Victorian society's infliction of capital punishment. Then we will consider *The Trial and Death of Socrates* (399 BCE) and Susan Glaspell's "Jury of her Peers" (1917), which all examine the evolution of the trial and jury system. We will conclude with examining *The Merchant of Venice*, the famous Shakespearean play that invokes the law and principles of justice and equity.

These literary texts will be paired with Chapters from Vago's and Nelson's *Law and Society* text to provide some practical and sociological consideration of the theoretical elements of our legal system.

This course will also discuss law as it relates to current issues facing society today, so students are encouraged to keep up with the news and current events.

### **Textbooks and Readings:**

#### On-line works (in public domain)

- (1) "The Three Strangers" (short story by Thomas Hardy – on-line link to be posted on D2L)
- (2) *The Bible* – (short passages, on-line link to be posted on Blackboard)
- (3) "Jury of her Peers" (short story by Susan Glaspell – on-line link to be posted on D2L)

#### Texts that will be available at the Bookstore

- (1) Plato. *The Trial and Death of Socrates*. (trans. G.M.A. Grube), Hackett Publishing
- (2) William Shakespeare. *The Merchant of Venice*. (Ed. Roma Gill) Oxford University Press.
- (3) Steven Vago and Adie Nelson, eds. *Law and Society* 4th edition.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

Short answer - in-class examination (30%) on all material covered to date on Monday June 1, 2015

Short answer – in class examination (30%) Monday June 14, 2015 on all material covered from June 3, 2015 to June 10, 2015.

Final Exam (40%) –to be written during the exam period - covering all of the class material, but emphasizing material covered from June 17, 2015 to June 24, 2015, closed book.

**\*\* Electronic assignments will not be accepted unless you obtain my permission \*\***

All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing mark unless otherwise specified by the instructor

### **Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:**

Yes

### **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

**Wednesday, May 20, 2015** – Introduction to the Class. Review course outline. Overview of the rest of the lectures and assignments. Examine Chapter 1 "Introduction" in *Law and Society*.

**Monday May 25, 2015** - Examine Chapter 2 “Theoretical Perspectives” in *Law and Society* and Biblical passages (evolution of Law and Authority).

**Wednesday May 27, 2015** - Examine Chapter 5 in *Law and Society* “Law and Social Control” and Thomas Hardy’s “The Three Strangers.”

**Monday June 1, 2015 - 2015** - **in-class examination worth 30% of your final grade - short answer on all material from the beginning of class to date**

**Wednesday June 3, 2015** - examine Susan Glaspell’s “Jury of her Peers” and actual trial the story is based on (links to be posted on D2L)

**Monday June 8, 2015** - Examine Chapter 8 in *Law and Society* “The Legal Profession.” Start Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice*

**Wednesday June 10, 2015** – continue examination of Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice*

**Monday June 15, 2015** – **in-class examination** worth 30% of your final grade - **short answer on all material** from June 3, 2015 to June 10, 2015.

**Wednesday June 17, 2015** – - Examine Chapter 3 in *Law and Society* “The Organization of Law” in *Law and Society* (selections from this chapter to be posted on D2L).

**Monday June 22, 2015** - start examining *Trial and Death of Socrates*

**Wednesday June 22, 2105** – complete examination of the *Trial and Death of Socrates*, and class wrap-up.

#### **NOTES:**

1. **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 discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a reconsidered mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.
2. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
3. **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-2-1.html>

4. **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 provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment."

5. **Deferrals:** If possible, please provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student. If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a "make up" test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a "make up" test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology. Deferred Final Exam Form: Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp\\_Su\\_DFE\\_App.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.pdf)

**Deferred Term Work Form:** Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

6. **Academic Accommodation:** Students who require academic accommodation, must register with Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Disability Resource Centre) at MC 452 (or phone 403-220-8237). Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.

7. All **written assignments** (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

**8. Grading System:** The following grading system is used in the Faculty of Arts:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

**9 Policy for Late Assignments:** Assignments submitted after the start of class on the due date will be penalized with the loss of a full grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. This includes weekends.

**10 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act** This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam. For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

**11 Plagiarism** Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre ([efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://efwr.ucalgary.ca)) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

## UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT NOTES

### 1. Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>.

### 2. "SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

### 3. Student Representation

The 2015-16 Students' Union VP Academic's email is: Stephan Guscott ([suvpres@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpres@ucalgary.ca)). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@ucalgary.ca).

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>.

### 4. Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.