



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Sociology
Department of Sociology Website: <https://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

LWSO 201 Introduction to Legal Studies

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| • Spring 2019 | • T/R 13:00 – 15:45 | • ICT 114 |
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Instructor: Dr. K Kramar
Office: SS 1004
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Phone:
Office Hours: T/R 15:30 – 16:30 (or by appointment)

Course Description

Overview of the role of law in society. Examination of different concepts of law. Study of legal rules, institutions, processes and personnel in social context. Discussion of construction and exercise of the power of law. Emphasis on Canadian law and legal system.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

In the first half of the course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and describe key sources of Canadian law, including constitutional law;
2. Describe the foundational concepts of “law” and “politics” and the basic logic, structure, and processes of the courts;
3. Explain the key organizational features of the Canadian judicial system, including quasi-judicial mechanisms for resolving disputes;
4. Explain the processes of judicial decision-making, judicial selection, independence and accountability;
5. Develop the ability to write well-organized succinct academically rigorous responses to questions that address the range of issues and debates in the study of Canadian law that

incorporates knowledge gained from course materials, lecture notes, and supplementary reading.

In the second half of the course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and describe key actors in the Canadian legal process;
2. Explain the debates about judicial activism and the dialogue between governments and courts;
3. Describe the effect of criminal, civil and constitutional litigation in the development of law and policy in Canadian society;
4. Analyze a court case in depth, understanding its social and historical context and evaluating its strong and weak points by producing a short summary and analysis.
5. Develop the ability to write well-organized succinct academically rigorous responses to questions that address the range of issues and debates in the study of Canadian law that incorporates knowledge gained from course materials, lecture notes, and supplementary reading.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

The following textbook has most of the required readings and can be found in the University of Calgary Bookstore (www.calgarybookstore.ca):

Hausegger, L., M. Hennigar and T. Riddell. 2015. *Canadian Courts: Law, Politics and Process (2nd Ed)*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

You can find the reading schedule on D2L. We will cover approximately 2 chapters per week (one per class).

If you need help accessing or using D2L, please visit the Desire2Learn resource page for students: <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/>.

Methods of Evaluation

1. Mid-term examination

Value: 30%

Date, time and location: May 23, 2019 13:00 – 14:30 in class

Length: 120 minutes

Type: Closed-book, in class, invigilated

Description: Mixed multiple choice and short, written answers.

Associated learning outcomes: See first-half learning objectives

2. Written assignment

Value: 30%

Due Date: June 6, 2019

Type: A short term paper (3-4 pages) graded in part on the quality of the writing.

Description: Details of the assignment will be distributed separately.

Submission instructions: Please submit a paper copy of the assignment to me in class on the day that it is due.

Late paper policy: At the discretion of the instructor, late papers may be penalized five points per day late. Papers late by more than seven (7) days will receive a zero grade.

Associated learning outcomes: Students should be able to analyze a court case in depth, understanding its social and historical context and evaluating its strong and weak points by producing a short summary and analysis.

3. Final examination

Value: 40%

Date, time and location: As scheduled by the Registrar

Length: 90 mins

Type: Closed-book, invigilated

Description: Mixed multiple choice and short, written answers

Associated learning outcomes: See second-half learning objectives

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-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Grade Reappraisal

Within **two weeks** of the date the test/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of tests or assignments must submit a written response to the professor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark (why you believe **an error** in grading has been made). You should do so with the descriptions of grade ranges described above to justify your view of your performance. Please note that "needing to get into graduate school or law school" are not valid justifications for grade reappraisal and will be rejected. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. I am more than willing to formally or informally review grades assigned and have no particular desire to give anyone a bad grade. It should be noted that a reconsidered mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same. This policy pertains less to those courses in which the method of evaluation involves multiple choice testing.

Technology Use

Please note that the use of cell phones are to be avoided during lectures. Please be sure to mute your cell phone and use only in case of a family or related emergency. Please feel free to step outside class at any time to deal with a family or personal emergency. **You will be asked to leave the classroom if you use technology other than for an approved purpose.**

Research demonstrates that laptops interfere with teaching and learning. More importantly, laptops are a kind of “second-hand smoke” for others. They have a negative effect on those exposed to others who are using them and multitasking.

Here is a link to the research: <https://3starlearningexperiences.wordpress.com/2018/01/09/laptops-in-class-are-the-new-second-hand-smoke/>

And another: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/everybody-is-stupid-except-you/201305/close-laptop-in-class>

And another: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/professors-push-back-against-laptops-in-the-lecture-hall/article26046828/>

Save yourself: turn off your wifi.

Using a pen and paper to take notes will increase your ability to understand and retain information from class lectures and improve your performance by a full letter grade over using a laptop. **If at any time, you find that I am speaking too quickly, you don't understand a point, please raise your hand and let me know. I'm happy to be asked to go more slowly, to go over main points/issues, and to discuss ideas as they come up in class.** If you find yourself unable to keep up or parse out key ideas, there are plenty of note-taking skills resources available to you on campus as well as online. You have a positive obligation in this regard.

Email

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 to two business days. I do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining to 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 make an effort to e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office visit, or asking questions either during or after lectures, if there is something you want to discuss. **Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any**

other personal issues, particularly those related to approved accommodations, must be dealt with in person during my office hours.

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at Energy, Environment and Experiential Learning (EEL)

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

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-5.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>

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 can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

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:

https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.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).

Student Representation

The 2019-20 Students' Union VP Academic is Kevin Dang suvpaca@ucalgary.ca.

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

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

Safewalk

The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/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.

Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)