



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Spring 2021

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	None		
Instructor Name	Dr Kirsten Kramar	Email	kirsten.kramar@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number – LWSO 201 – 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. Emails will be answered within one business day. I generally do not answer emails over the weekend, but will check during busier times. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline or the content section in the course website on D2L first.		
Office Location	Virtual	Office Hours	By appointment
TA Name	Abigail Baah	TA Email	abigail.baah@ucalgary.ca
TA Office Location	Virtual	TA Office Hours	By appointment
Class Dates	May 5, 2021 – June 16, 2021		
Class Times	Mondays (M) 1:00 – 3:45 p.m. (via Zoom) Monday’s lectures are synchronous and will begin at 1:00 p.m. via zoom in a lecture/discussion format. The link can be found in D2L. Please note that this class begins on Wednesday May 5, 2021 which is asynchronous. The second lecture each week will be asynchronous. These lectures are pre-recorded and will be made available on Wednesday afternoons. Narrated PPT slides and supplemental materials can be found in the weekly folders in D2L.		

Class Location	Online

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;

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

1. Identify and describe key actors in the Canadian legal process;
2. Understand which groups litigate and why;
3. Explain the difference between judicial activism and judicial dialogue between governments and courts; and,
4. Describe the effect of criminal, civil and constitutional litigation in the development of law and policy in Canadian society.

Course Format

Lectures will take place twice a week (Mondays and Wednesdays). The lectures on Mondays will be delivered synchronously in a live discussion format via Zoom. Zoom links can be found in D2L. Lectures on Wednesdays will be delivered asynchronously (pre-recorded) and made available Wednesday afternoons (see weekly folders in D2L for pre-recorded lectures).

Required Textbook & Learning Resources

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

All of the supplementary materials for this course will be placed in weekly folders with an accompanying ‘task list’ of weekly readings, narrated lecture slides, audio-visual materials, and learning checks assigned for each week. We will cover roughly 2 chapters per week.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

This course has a D2L site through which the schedule of readings, supplementary study aids, asynchronous lectures, quizzes, midterm test and final exam must be accessed. Because this course relies heavily on D2L and Zoom, you need:

- a computer that supports Zoom and D2L and accommodates the latest security updates
- an up-to-date web browser
- broadband internet
- a webcam (which can be on your phone, if you want to participate on Zoom that way, or you can use your computer)
- a microphone and speaker or a headset with a microphone (which, again, can be on either your phone or your computer)

Help is near:

- D2L: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/students/d2l-students/>
- Zoom: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/students/zoom-students/>
- General: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/resources-for-students/>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Posted on D2L.

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

Learning checks (best 4 out of 5): 40%

Midterm Test: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Bonus Syllabus Quiz: 2%

Details of Student Assessments:

Bonus Syllabus Quiz (2%)

The bonus quiz is a quiz on the syllabus that you can complete for bonus marks. It is open for 24 hours beginning on Wednesday May 5 until Thursday May 7 at midnight. You have as long as you want to complete this quiz and may repeat the quiz as many times as you like, until it closes. You may consult the syllabus as you complete it.

Learning Checks (40%)

May 12, 2021

May 19, 2021

June 2, 2021

June 9, 2021

June 16, 2021

Learning checks will be posted on Wednesdays and can be found in the weekly folders in D2L.

Learning checks are “open book” (though you should not need the resources if you have studied!) but they are not “open friend.” This means that you should not consult with friends during the quiz. If you are tempted to do so, you should know that the quizzes draw from a large sample of questions, so not everyone will have the same quiz questions. Thus, you may be wasting your time if you ask a friend questions or offer help.

Each learning check is multiple choice and/or T/F, and there is only one correct answer. Each learning check is timed and sequential. Once you begin the learning check you will have 40 minutes to complete 25 questions. The learning checks will be available for 24 hours once they begin to allow for flexibility. You must begin the learning check 40 minutes before they are scheduled to close for that week. The learning checks consist of key questions and cover the readings and lecture materials for each relevant week (pro-tip: look for overlap between readings and my narrated slides). To preserve academic integrity and in fairness to all students, you will not be able to see the quiz questions as soon as you complete them. The score will be made available to you once you submit your quiz. You will be able to access your answers showing correct/incorrect answers once everyone has completed the learning check. This will be helpful for you to study for the midterm and final exam.

We will have regularly scheduled remote meetings via Zoom on Mondays beginning at 1:00 p.m. to discuss weekly readings, additional course content material, answer questions, and seek clarification on course content posted in weekly folders.

Each learning check will then be available on Wednesdays beginning at 3:00 p.m. (I will leave the link active for 24 hours to allow for flexibility). These learning checks are scheduled for you to complete during asynchronous portion of the course so as to not overlap with your other commitments, however you may access and begin your learning check anytime for 24 hours afterwards.

The good news: You may miss one learning check for any reason without penalty to your grade, including illness, personal schedule conflicts, or personal affliction because only 4 of the 5 learning checks count towards this component of the course (I will drop the lowest score). There is no need to inform your instructor that you will skip a learning check. If you are affected by illness or domestic disruption and are not able to complete your readings, attend lectures or perform the learning checks please do not hesitate to contact me to arrange options for you such as a longer window of time to complete the weekly learning check, or the re-weighting of your grade.

Midterm Test May 26, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m. to May 27, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m. (30%)

The midterm test is cumulative, open book, timed and sequential. There are 60 questions to complete in 75 minutes. A portion of the midterm test questions will be drawn from your previous learning checks, so be sure to review your answers on each of these to prepare for the midterm test. Every effort is made to ensure that questions provide a fair and accurate assessment of what has been taught and to allow for self-directed feedback on individual results. You will be able to review your answers after everyone has completed the midterm assessment to get learning feedback from incorrect/correct answers. Each of the learning checks and the midterm will be useful study aids in preparing for the cumulative final exam.

Final Exam Information

The final exam is worth 30% of your final grade. The exam is cumulative of all work covered in the course. It is open book, and comprised of multiple choice, multiple selection, and true/false questions. The day and time of the final exam is scheduled by the Registrar. Students will have access to the exam for a 24 hour period ending with the Registrar's scheduled time. Within that window, student will have (75 minutes) to write the exam once they begin it.

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.

Absences and Deferrals

Students who miss class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructor as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, the instructor 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.

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 requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at:

<https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/deferral-of-term-work-2020.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

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 his or her 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.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect. When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If

participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit:

<https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Media Recording

***Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

***Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

***Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

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 Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. 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.

Recording of Lectures

The audio or video recording of lectures and taking screenshots of PowerPoint slides during the lecture are not permitted without explicit authorization. The non-authorized media recording of lectures is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and may result in discipline in accordance with the [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure](#).

Sharing of Lecture Notes and Exam Questions

Publicly sharing lectures notes and exam questions on 3rd party sites such as OneClass, StudyBlue, Quizlet, Course Hero, etc. is not permitted. If you wish to use these helpful studying tools, make sure you adjust your privacy settings accordingly. Any violations are subject to investigation under the UofC [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#).

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>

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. Please refer to the [policy on Student Accommodations](#). Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

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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 www.ucalgary.ca/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.