



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2021

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

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

COURSE TITLE: Research Methods in Law and Society			
Course Number	LWSO 313		
Pre/Co-Requisites	LWSO 201		
Instructor Name	Dr. Dawn Rault	Email	dawn.rault@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 two business days . <i>I do not answer emails over the weekend</i> . 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 e-mail me for administrative purposes only. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office-hours 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 during my office hours.		
Office Location	Virtual via Zoom	Office Hours	(please use the "Calendly" link posted on D2L to book an appointment during office hours) Monday 10-12 Thursday 12-2 Office hours start January 11 th and end April 29 th .
Telephone No.	403-220-6505 (this goes to email message)		
TA Name	Mojtaba Rostami	TA Email	mojtaba.rostami1@ucalgary.ca
TA Office Location	Virtual via Zoom	TA Office Hours	Wednesday, 12-2 (starting Feb 3)
Class Dates	Week of January 11 th -Week of April 12 th		
Class Times	Class "lecture" will be posted weekly on D2L (asynchronous). Our "Lab/Tutorial/Discussion" will take place (live/synchronous) every Friday from 12 -1 via zoom (January 15 th -April 9 th) No "lab/tutorial/discussion" on Friday, April 2 nd . Attendance at "lab/tutorial/discussion" is mandatory.		
Class Location	Fully Online Online-D2L + Zoom		

Course Description

How do we know what we know about the social and legal world?

In this course, we will tackle this question together by examining how socio-legal scholars observe, analyze, and create knowledge about various social and legal institutions and phenomenon. We will introduce you to qualitative and quantitative research methods commonly used by socio-legal scholars and will invite you to think critically about how different methods lead to different kinds of knowledge production. We will pay special attention to how research methods have historically privileged some groups, while excluding, marginalizing, and disparaging others, and how methods today may be used to both challenge and reproduce inequalities. The University requires that in order to take this course, you must have taken LWSO 201.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to provide you with as much hands-on experience with research methods commonly used by socio-legal scholars. In this course, we will be:

- (1) learning about and practicing qualitative and quantitative methods,
- (2) exploring how science is produced and what ideas or conditions influence science,
- (3) critically thinking about existing scientific research methods,
- (4) practicing research and writing methods including legal research basics, and legal analysis,
- (5) developing practical skills of research design,
- (6) critically appraising existing research,
- (7) focusing on ethics of research, critical epistemologies and methodologies in this course.

Course Format

This class is being run “hybrid” meaning our class lecture will be posted weekly to D2L (asynchronous) before our “lab/tutorial/discussion” (synchronous) every Friday from 12-1 (via Zoom). No “lab/tutorial/discussion” on Friday, April 2nd. Please listen to the lecture + complete the assigned readings before attending the Friday “lab/tutorial/discussion”.

Learning Resources

Readings are assigned from two sources:

- Alan Bryman, Edward Bell. 2019. *Social Research Methods*, Fifth Canadian Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press. (Available at the Campus Bookstore). **REQUIRED TEXT**

The text is available in hard copy, or in digital format (rental). If you rent the text, you will have immediate access, and it is less expensive than the price of the physical book, FYI.

- Several online journal articles (links and/or pdfs provided on D2L). *Please note: You need to be logged in to U of C library for the links to work*

Learning Technologies and Requirements

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2l.ucalgary.ca). In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

	LWSO 313 Schedule (*Schedule subject to change, additional readings will be assigned)
Week 1 Week of Jan 11	Introduction to the course/Research orientations Textbook Chapter 1 (Synchronous class Friday January 15 th 12-1)
Week 2 Week of Jan 18	Research Design Textbook Chapter 2 (Synchronous class Friday January 22 nd 12-1)
Week 3 Week of Jan 25	Research Ethics Textbook Chapter 3 (Synchronous class Friday January 29 th 12-1)
Week 4 Week of Feb 1	Quantitative Research-Part 1 Textbook Chapters 4 + 5 (Synchronous class Friday February 5 th 12-1)
Week 5 Week of Feb 8	Quantitative Research-Part 2 Textbook Chapters 4 + 5 **MIDTERM EXAM FEB 11-12 (Thursday + Friday) (Includes All Materials from Week 1-5)**
Week of Feb 15	Reading Break No Class
Week 6 Week of Feb 22	Qualitative Research-Part 1 Textbook Chapters 9 + 10 (Synchronous class Friday February 26 th 12-1)
Week 7 Week of March 1	Qualitative Research-Part 2 Textbook Chapter 11 (Synchronous class Friday March 5 th 12-1)
Week 8 Week of March 8	Sampling Textbook Chapter 7 (Synchronous class Friday March 12 th 12-1)
Week 9 Week of March 15	Units of Analysis (no textbook reading) (Synchronous class Friday March 19 th 12-1) **Article Critique Due to D2L Dropbox by Thursday, March 18th before midnight**
Week 10 Week of March 22	Quantitative Analysis Textbook Chapter 8 (Synchronous class Friday March 26 th 12-1) **Pilot Test Survey*** (survey must be completed before synchronous class)
Week 11 Week of March 29,	Qualitative Analysis Part 1 Textbook Chapter 13 NO SYNCHRONOUS CLASS APRIL 2 (Holiday)
Week 12 Week of April 5	Qualitative Analysis Part 2 Textbook Chapter 13 (LAST Synchronous class Friday April 9 th 12-1) **Final Assignment Due April 6th before Midnight to D2L Dropbox**
Week 13 Week of April 12	Flex Week No Synchronous Class

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

**Please note all assignments are deducted 5% per day if submitted late. "In class activities" will not be accepted outside of class hours. You must be present in class to receive the grade, no exceptions.*

Midterm Exam-20% (February 11th-12th)

- The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The exam will be open for 24-hours, but you will 2-hours to complete the exam once you start.
- Both the midterm and final exams are closed book exams, meaning you cannot use any sources during your exam. You are not permitted to collaborate with others in any way during the exam. Student engagement in any of the above behaviors may constitute academic misconduct.

Final Exam-30% (Date TBA by registrar)

- The final exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions, and a partial article critique. The exam will be open for 24-hours, but you will 2-hours to complete the exam once you start. The date, time, and location will be announced by the office of the registrar. The final exam is not cumulative but builds on content from before the midterm.
- Both the midterm and final exams are closed book exams, meaning you cannot use any sources during your exam. You are not permitted to collaborate with others in any way during the exam. Student engagement in any of the above behaviors may constitute academic misconduct.

Article Critique-10% (due March 18)

- You are asked to critique a qualitative OR quantitative article that will be posted on D2L. The critique template is also posted on D2L. You may work individually or with a partner, but you will receive the same grade. Please submit your critique to D2L dropbox on March 18.

Major Assignment-30% (April 6th)

- Details on the major assignment can be found on D2L. You may work individually or with a partner, but you will receive the same grade.

"In-Class" Lab Activities-10% (5 x 2% each)

- The labs are designed to give you practical experience with the various research methods we discuss in class. The labs are facilitated during our "live" class on Fridays. At the end of each lab you are expected to submit your lab work. Results from these activities will be graded on a pass/fail basis. You are permitted to miss one lab without penalty. All other labs will be graded, and "late" labs will not be accepted. Please respect this rule as we don't have the capacity to make special accommodations due to the class size.

Final Exam Information

The final exam is scheduled by the office of the registrar.

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 are absent from class assessments (tests 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. Deferred midterm exams are **NOT** permitted under any circumstances. If a student misses the midterm exam for an acceptable reason, the weight of that assessment will be re-distributed to the other course assessment items. Deferral of in-class activities is NOT permitted. You must be present in class to receive the activity grade.

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 one week of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to me *explaining* the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. I will only meet with students during office hours, re-appraisals will not take place over email. 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 each Friday.

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 (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). 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/>.

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. 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.

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/policies/files/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. For more information click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

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. For more information, click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

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. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

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 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.