



LWSO 313 (Research Methods in Law and Society)			
Pre/Co-Requisites	LWSO 201		
Instructor:	Dr. Rashid Begg	Lecture Location:	SH 268
		Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 10 – 10:50
Email:	mohammed.begg@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	SS 936	Office Hrs: W:	11:15 – 12:15
Instructor Email Policy	<p>Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line. 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. Also, please 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, 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.</p>		

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.

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) examining legal content analysis, ethnographies, and participant observation.
- (5) developing practical skills of research design, and research proposal writing.
- (6) critically appraising existing research,
- (7) focusing on ethics of research, critical epistemologies and methodologies in this course.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This course will introduce some of the basic analytical lenses and research methods through which law and society scholarship is conducted. By its conclusion students should be able to:

- Critically carry out law and society research
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of various methodological approaches
- Assess which ways of approaching law and society scholarship are to their taste
- Consider the ways different research methods might be combined to provide more inter or trans-disciplinary perspectives on law and society

Office Hours

I will hold office hours on Wednesdays from 11:15 – 12:15 (MST) by appointment. Please book your appointment via email (mohammed.begg@ucalgary.ca).

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

- Alan Bryman, Edward Bell, Steven Kleinknecht. 2023. *Social Research Methods*, Sixth 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).

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

Students will need access to a computer and a web browser in order to obtain their marks on Desire2Learn (D2L). Students may also wish to retrieve documents including notes and lecture videos from D2L. The University of Calgary has computer labs for students to use.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

	LWSO 313 Schedule (*Schedule subject to change, additional readings will be assigned)
Week 1 Week of Jan 09	Introduction to the course/Research orientations Textbook Chapter 1
Week 2 Week of Jan 16	Research Design Textbook Chapter 2
Week 3 Week of Jan 23	Research Ethics Textbook Chapter 3
Week 4 Week of Jan 30	Quantitative Research Textbook Chapters 4
Week 5 Week of Feb 6	Quantitative Research Textbook Chapter 5
Week 6 Week of Feb 13	Quantitative Research Textbook Chapter 6 **MIDTERM EXAM 1 FEB, 17**
Week of Feb 20	READING WEEK NO CLASSES
Week 7 Week of Feb 27	Qualitative Research Textbook Chapter 9 Research Proposal Discussion
Week 8 Week of March 6	Qualitative Research Textbook Chapter 10
Week 9 Week of March 13	Qualitative Research Textbook Chapter 11
Week 10 Week of March 20	Quantitative Analysis Textbook Chapter 12 **MIDTERM 2 March 24**
Week 11 Week of March 27	Qualitative Analysis Textbook Chapter 13
Week 12 Week of April 3	Qualitative/Quantitative Analysis Sampling Textbook Chapter 7
Week 13 Week of April 10	**Final Research Proposal Due April 12**

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weight

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES/DAY
Midterm Examination I	40%	February 17
Midterm Examination II	40%	March 24
Research Proposal	20%	April 12
Total	100%	

Assessment Format

The Midterm Examinations will be in the form of multiple-choice questions and the Research Proposal will be 6 – 8 pages in length (a rubric will be supplied on D2L for this assignment)

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.

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>

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of that email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor.

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/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.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.

Deferral of a Final Examination

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Academic Accommodations:

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. 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>

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 subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. 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.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. 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.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

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 SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at 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, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives
Phone: 403-220-6551
Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Phone: 403-220-5997
Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student 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 supports 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 the following resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Wellness Services:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.