

**Law and Society (LWSO) 591**  
**Seminar 01**  
**Winter 2014**  
**BLOCK WEEK**  
**2, 3, 4, 6 & 7 January 2014**  
**9:00 - 16:30**  
**EDT 723**

**Instructor:** CGK Atkins  
**Office Location:** SS346  
**Office Phone:** 403 210 9433  
**E-Mail:** catkins@ucalgary.ca  
**Web Page:** TBA  
**Office Hours:** By appointment via email or in person.

### **Additional Information**

**Students should read/view the available materials PRIOR to the start of Block Week.**

Please refer to Blackboard for an updated schedule of seminar guests and reading assignments. Some materials may not be available until quite close to the actual session.

### **Course Description**

This course is the capstone course for the Law and Society Program. Students will explore socio-legal issues (i.e., political lobbying, law-making, law enforcement, judicial interpretations and legal reform movements) in Canadian society. (e.g., physicians, a journalist, a bankruptcy trustee, a crown prosecutor, a lawyer, a social activist, etc.) will bring their expertise into the classroom. They will introduce students to an array of social and political issues which influence the construction, execution and/or, interpretation of Canadian social and legal attitudes and institutions. For every session, the students will have read and familiarized themselves with the relevant materials prior to class and have written a journaling response to the reading. The readings will be posted online on Blackboard or be handed out in a previous session. These materials will come from the guest speakers themselves in order to prepare the class for the topics to be presented. Students will thus be able to engage the guest speaker in his/her area of interest. In every class, students will be expected to respond coherently and respectfully to the materials and to the guest speaker. At the end of each

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day, students will complete their journaling assignment for the sessions they experienced that day, handing it into the instructor by 19:00. Finally, the students will write an analytical term paper which has been drawn from reflections in their journal entries and from the materials and presentations of the guest speakers. This term paper will be due later in the term.

## **Objectives of the Course**

The aim of this course is to create an environment in which students can explore the multi-dimensional nature of socio-legal, ethical and political concerns in Canada. As a senior level course, it will show the broad and often subtle manner in which law both forms us as individuals and as a people and, the manner in which we influence the creation, execution, interpretation and revision of law. Students should gain a nuanced understanding their own and others' membership in Canada's liberal democratic community.

## **Textbooks and Readings**

Readings will be made available either in class or on Blackboard.

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

**Journaling assignments** - 45% - DUE daily (average length: 2-4 typed pages, double-spaced) **2, 3, 4, 6, 7 January 2014**

- Each student will keep a journal which will document their reactions to and reflections on the daily readings and seminar presentations. Entries will be handed by 19:00 each day. In term s o f format, each journal entry will be in two parts: (i) response to the daily readings, written prior to class and; (ii) reflections on the readings and seminar, composed after class.

Overall, the daily journaling exercise is strongly analytical and should be referenced to other material and presentations during the week.

Summaries of articles are not acceptable responses. As graduating LWSO majors, students are encouraged to draw on the breadth and depth of their scholarly knowledge thus far when completing their assignments.

**Class participation** - 20% - daily: **2, 3, 4, 6, 7 January 2014**

- Attendance is MANDATORY. Each student should have 2-3 questions prepared to initiate the seminar discussion for each session. It is both a matter of courtesy and of intellectual necessity that seminar participants adequately prepare for each guest speaker and engage with them appropriately during each session. Thus, students are expected to speak in class. Students will be assessed on their demonstrated knowledge of the material; their analysis of the materials; their capacity to listen to their

peers and respond appropriately; and their contribution to a welcoming and inquisitive seminar environment.

**Term paper - 35% (5% proposal/outline & 30% final paper). Proposal/outline due 24 January 2014 & final paper due 9 February 2014**

- Each student will write a 12-18 page paper which draws on the course material and his/her journal entries over the term. The student's topic MUST receive approval from the instructor. (This may be done either in person or via email.) As such, the student must submit a paper outline to the instructor prior to commencing writing the essay. Papers that are submitted without receiving prior approval from the instructor will not be marked. The student will attach the relevant journal material which influenced his or her topic choice when handing in his or her paper.

**STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT ALL ASSIGNMENTS TO RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE.**

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. Electronic submissions are also acceptable, via email or the Blackboard drop box. There is no drop box available for hard copy submissions.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No**

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

- Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.
- Late assignments must be handed in electronically. They will not be accepted by the instructor.

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

- TBA - Please refer to Blackboard for an updated schedule of speakers and reading assignments
- **It is extremely important that students refer to Blackboard on an ongoing basis as reading assignments and guest lecture appearances may well be adjusted several times during the course**

### **Writing Skills Statement**

All written assignments 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: [www.efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca)

## **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>.

## **Grading System**

The following grading system will be used:

	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.

However, your journals and papers will likely receive both a letter and a score, so this will likely not be a concern.

## **Ethics**

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and

approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/for-researchers/ethics>.

## **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.

## **Internet and electronic communication device information**

Students may use laptops and tablets in class to take notes in class and to search the internet **when asked to do so by the instructor**.

In general, Phones, Smartphones and Music devices **MUST** be turned off or placed on "vibrate."

When used in a manner that is directly related to student learning, electronic devices are generally acceptable subject to the following conditions:

1. Their use must not distract the student and/or other students seated nearby;
2. Any student who uses an electronic device may be asked to leave the class immediately if his or her conduct with the device becomes unacceptable; and
3. ALL electronic devices will NOT be permitted during in class tests.

## **Policy on Recording of Lectures**

Recording shall be permitted for individual private study only at the discretion of the instructor. For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed. Any other use of recordings constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion. For

more information on recording of lectures please see:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>

## **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **Academic Accommodation Policy**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor as soon as possible after the start of the course.

## **Students' Union**

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Communication and Culture see [www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/su](http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/su)

## **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>

## **"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.

## **Student Representation**

There are four Arts reps, with the email addresses being [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca). Please contact them if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

## **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, 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.