

Law and Society 591 – Seminar 01
Integrative Seminar
Fall 2012
W 13:00-15:50 EDT 723

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Office Hours: Tues 14:00-15:00 and by appointment

Course Description

This capstone seminar is an opportunity for students in the Law & Society program to review, synthesize, and integrate the knowledge they have gained during their time in the program and apply this to real-world problems. Through seminar discussions, close reading of texts, and independent research, students will gain a greater appreciation for the many ways in which law informs and is shaped by society.

The theme of this year's seminar is energy and environment. We will examine debates, contestations, and controversies related to energy and environment as a way to explore and critically assess the relationship between law and society. Independent research, both individually and in groups, is a major component of this course. Students are expected to engage with texts and arguments at a more sophisticated level than they have in the past.

Objectives of the Course

The goals of this course are to:

1. Review and critically evaluate key concepts, issues, and debates within the field of law and society;
2. Apply these concepts to real-world issues and problems;
3. Further develop students' communication, research, and critical thinking skills.

Textbooks and Readings:

Readings will be a mix of journal articles, reports, and other scholarly material, which will be made available through Blackboard.

Assignments and Evaluation

Students will be graded based on following four components. Note that students must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in this course.

1. Group presentation (35%)

Working in small groups, students will research a topic and present their findings to the rest of the class. Groups will also submit a brief summary of their findings. Presentations will take place in mid-November.

2. Seminar lead (15%)

Each week, a group of students will be selected to lead a class discussion based on the week's readings. Seminar leaders should summarize the main points of each reading and provide insightful analysis. You will be judged on the quality of your summary and your ability to guide the class discussion.

3. Participation (15%)

As this is a seminar class, it is important that students do the assigned readings ahead of time and actively participate in class discussions. Participation will be graded based on students' contributions both in-class (5%) and online (10%), i.e., on Blackboard.

4. Research paper (35%)

Each student will write a term paper on a topic of their choosing. The paper can expand on research the student did as part of their group presentation or can be on a new topic. Length: 2000-3000 words. Alternatively, students can choose to present their research in a non-traditional format (e.g., poster, video, wiki).

Note: There is no final exam for this course.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS110. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

Policy for Late Assignments

Late assignments are discouraged. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

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

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

A detailed schedule of lectures and readings will be distributed via Blackboard on the first day of class.

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 if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Please turn off cell phones during class. Students are welcome to bring laptops and other electronic devices to class so long as these are used to aid student learning. During class, it is not acceptable to play games, answer email, surf the web, or engage in other non-class activities. Students who violate this rule may be asked to leave the classroom. Not only do such practices negatively affect you, they also distract other students and undermine our goal of creating a respectful learning environment.

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 no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

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

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Student Representation

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca. Please contact 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 new 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. 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 3rd 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.