



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology
Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

LWSO 201 Introduction to Legal Studies

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| • Winter 2019 | • T/R 9:30 - 10:45 | • ICT 102 |
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Instructor: Sasha Reid, M.A., PhD Candidate
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Course Description

This course is designed to give students an introduction to the study of law in society. It is divided into three main parts. First, we will look at the ideological foundations of law in history and philosophy. Second, we will use this context to examine the law in practice in Canadian society. Finally, the course considers different theoretical approaches to the law in the post-modern world, including evolutionary ethics, predictive policing, and neuro-law.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to critically evaluate legal, philosophical, and theoretical texts and a variety of other materials. Students will also become more comfortable discussing the ways in which the law, politics, and society influence each other and how the law in Canada and other liberal democracies is made and reformed over time.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

- Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, edited by J.G.A. Pocock (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1987) [originally published 1790] – required.
- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, edited by C.B. Macpherson (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1980) [originally published 1690] – required.
- All other readings will be posted onto D2L.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1. Welcome and What is Law and Society? January 6 - 12

Tuesday: No Classes

Thursday: Introductions and Course Overview

Week 2. Why Do We Think the Way That We Do? January 13- 19

Tuesday: What is Law, What is Justice? Is Law Always Just?

Thursday: Who Decides? and What Is the Source of That Power?

Week 3. Who Makes the Law? Who Holds That Power? January 20 -26

Tuesday: What is Liberalism?

Thursday: What is Conservatism?

Week 4. History: Legal History, an Overview January 27 – February 2

Tuesday: **Introducing the Paper Assignment**

Thursday: Part 1: Jesuits and Early Colonial Morality

Week 5. The Fall of New France and the Royal Proclamation February 3 – 9

Tuesday: Part 2: Christian Morality and Early Colonial Justice (Punishment)

Thursday: The Royal Proclamation

Week 6. Canadian Constitution and The Charter of Rights and Freedoms February 10 - 16

Tuesday: The Recognition of Indigenous Rights

Thursday: What is the Constitution, its Components, and its Purpose? (Paper Due)

Week 7. Readings Week – No Classes February 17 - 23

Week 8. The Role of the Courts February 24 – March 2

Tuesday: Rights and Equalities (Case Study: LGBTQ)

Thursday: The Power of Judges: A Focus on Implicit Bias

Week 9. Continuation of the Role of the Courts and Test Review March 3 - 9

Tuesday: The Power of Judges: Judicial Interpretation, Judicial Review, Judicial Activism

Thursday: **Test 1 Review**

Week 10. The Interplay Between Law and Evolving Social Ethics (part 1) March 10 - 16

Tuesday: **Test 1**

Thursday: Evolving Morality and the Evolution of Ethics and Social Change

Week 11. The Interplay Between Law and Evolving Social Ethics (part 2) March 17 – 23

Tuesday: How Does Law Respond to Social Panics? Case Study 1

Thursday: How Does Law Respond to Social Panics? Case Study 2

Week 12. Postmodern Jurisprudence March 24 – 30

Tuesday: Freud and Neurolaw, A Legal Frontier: Case Study 1

Thursday: Freud and Neurolaw, A Legal Frontier: Case Study 2

Week 13. Postmodernity: 'Big Data' and the Law	March 31 – April 6
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Tuesday: Artificial Intelligence and the Law: Case Study 1
Thursday: Artificial Intelligence and the Law: Case Study 2

Week 14. Course Review	April 7 - 13
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Tuesday: Big Data Law Enforcement and the Rise of Predictive Policing
Thursday: Course Review

Methods of Evaluation

1. Written Assignment (30%) | February 16th, 2019

This assignment will involve critical responses to the assigned readings by John Locke and Edmund Burke. Context, direction, and guidance on both texts will be provided in the first lectures of the semester.

2. Test (25%) | March 11th, 2019

This test will be closed book. It will cover all material from week 1 to week 8, inclusive. The test will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer. A test review session will be held prior to the test. Students are expected to come prepared with questions.

3. Final Exam (30%) | TBD (Registrar-Scheduled)

This test will be closed book. It will cover all material from week 9 to week 14, inclusive. The test will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer. A test review session will be held prior to the test. Students are expected to come prepared with questions.

4. Critical Commentaries (15%) | Due: Throughout the Semester

You are required to submit to D2L six (6) 400-700-word (approx.) commentaries of what you learned over a particular week. The commentaries should not be a summary of what you learned but rather, an integrated synthesis of thoughts, ideas, and critical concepts that you were introduced to and continued to ponder over the course of the week. Submissions are due throughout the semester. You will choose which weeks to submit a commentary for and it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they have submitted a total of 6 commentaries by the end of the term. Each submission accounts for 2.5% of your final grade. Commentaries will be graded on the following: depth of reflection, connections to real world cases, ability to provide sources for additional information provided, and the overall quality of the writing.

Note: While it is not necessary to pass all components, students must complete all assignments to pass the class.

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-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

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.

Technology Use

Please be sure to mute your cell phone and refrain from using it during class.

Email

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 will be answered within two business days. Emails will not be answered over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing questions pertaining 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.

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at Energy, Environment & Experiential Learning (EEEL).

Handing in Papers, Assignments

The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.

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 provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

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 Faculty Ethics Committee. 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.

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-5.html>

Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, 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. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>.

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 about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

Student Representation

The 2018-19 Students' Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington (suvpaca@ucalgary.ca). For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

Safewalk

The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the

LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy. Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)