

LWSO 401-01
Topics in Law and Society (Research Methods)
Fall 2017
W 12:00 – 2:45 pm
Engineering Block G 230

Instructor: Dr. Ted McCoy
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Course Description

This Topics course is an introduction to research methods used in Law and Society. Law and Society situates law in its social, economic, political, and historical contexts. The course is designed to incorporate theoretical and practical considerations from each of these areas. How can we use research to engage with the study of law? How does the law change? How do legal processes interact with other institutions in our society? Engaging with these questions requires that students are able to deploy a range of effective research skills and strategies.

Objectives of the Course

During the course, students will be introduced to different elements of the legal studies research process through a series of lectures, workshops, and assignments. Students will learn to design research questions, to access traditional and electronic resources, to reflect on the theoretical dimensions of their research, and to design a research project employing the skills provided in this course.

Textbooks and Readings:

There is no textbook for purchase in this course. Assigned readings will be posted, along with a schedule, to the D2L site. Please follow the schedule closely and read the required readings **before** coming to each weekly meeting.

Assignments and Evaluation

Research Proposal	10%
Article Review	20%

Annotated Bibliography	20%
Research Project Design	40%

Assignment Dates

Research Proposal: October 4

Article Review: October 25

Annotated Bibliography: November 15

Research Project Design: December 6

Final Exam: No

NOTES:

- 1. 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 reconsidered mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.
- 2. Handing in Papers, Assignments, or Documents:** The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
- 3. 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>
- 4. 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."
- 5. Deferrals:** If possible, please provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student. If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a "make up" test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the

instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology. 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: http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.pdf

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).

6. Student Representation: The 2017-18 Students’ Union VP Academic is Tina Miller (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>

7. Emergency Evacuation: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at the **MSC – North Courtyard**. Please check these assembly point locations for your other classes at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

8. 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.

9. All written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) 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.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

10. Grading System The following grading system is used in the Faculty of Arts:

	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.

11. Policy for Late Assignments Assignments submitted after the start of class on the due date will be penalized with the loss of a full letter grade (e.g.: A- to B-) for each day late. This includes weekends.

12. 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>.

13. 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) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

14. 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-5.html>