



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

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

LWSO 425 Law and Technology

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|---------------|-------------------|----------|
| • Winter 2019 | • T/R 2:00 - 3:15 | • SA 015 |
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Instructor: Sasha Reid, M.A., PhD Candidate
Office: SS1004
Email: sasha.reid@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: T/R: 11:00 – 1:00pm or by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to give students an introduction to the study of law and technology. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to a survey of different technology and data issues affecting the criminal justice system. The class will examine these technologies through two critical lenses: (1) how technology and technological advances arise from social fears and needs (2) how technology changes power relationships between government and citizens. This class is taught via case study.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Explain the various ways technology is impacting the legal profession and/or posing new questions for legal scholars; identify the ethical and moral implications of some of the new technologies that are becoming available; be able to anticipate legal and ethical challenges to advancing technology.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

- There is no required textbook for this class
- All readings will be posted to D2L

Tentative Course Schedule

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

Tuesday: No Classes

Thursday: Introductions and Course Overview

Week 2. Artificial Intelligence January 13- 19

Tuesday: What is Artificial Intelligence (AI), AGI, and ASI?

Thursday: The Case for Human Rights in Robots

Week 3. Artificial Intelligence January 20 -26

Tuesday: The Case Against Human Rights in Robots

Thursday: Complicity and Moral Culpability in Artificially Intelligent Machine

Week 4. Medical Ethics January 27 – February 2

Tuesday: Eugenics

Thursday: Genetic Screening

Week 5. Medical Ethics February 3 – 9

Tuesday: Genetic Editing

Thursday: Beyond Death with Dignity, Living in “the Cloud”

Week 6. Test Week February 10 - 16

Tuesday: Test Review

Thursday: Test

Week 7. Reading Week – No Classes February 17 – 23

Week 8. Law and Punishment February 24 – March 2

Tuesday: Minority Report: Can We Predict Crime?

Thursday: Coerced Eye-Witness Statements

Week 9. Law and Punishment March 3 - 9

Tuesday: Modernizing Punishments for the 21st Century: Case Study 1

Thursday: Modernizing Punishments for the 21st Century: Case Study 2

Week 10. Privacy Law and Surveillance March 10 - 16

Tuesday: What expectations to privacy should we have?

Thursday: How much is too much protection?

Week 11. Privacy Law and Surveillance March 17 – 23

Tuesday: Hacking into ones Brain (revisiting the Neural Lace)

Thursday: False Memories and the Law

Week 12. Test Week March 24 – 30

Tuesday: Test Review

Thursday: Test 2

Week 13. Dehumanization of the Other March 31 – April 6

Tuesday: Legal and Ethical Implications of Social Ranking

Thursday: Social Networking and Equal Protections Before the Law

Week 14. Dehumanization of the Other April 7 – 13

Tuesday: Modernizing the Military through Artificial Intelligence (Drones and Implants)

Thursday: Humanization and dehumanization processes in human interactions with androids, humanoid robots and digital characters

Methods of Evaluation

1. Test 1 (20%) | February 14th, 2019

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

2. Test 2 (25%) | March 28th, 2019

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

3. Thought Paper (30%) | Due the last day of class

The purpose of this paper is to engage critically and philosophically with the topic of your choice. You could offer a question, a criticism or a problem, or offer an alternative interpretation of the topic covered. Additional instructions will be provided in class. Please note: This paper is to be a minimum of five pages (double spaced) but no longer than six pages. The paper must follow conventional essay format and use APA citations. For citation instructions please see: <https://library.ucalgary.ca/c.php?g=664585&p=4671793>. This paper will be due in the last day of class. Students will hand the paper in electronically, to D2L.

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.

5. Discussion Board Participation (10%) | Due: Throughout the Semester

Each new case/topic will be hosted on its own discussion board. Weekly readings will be posted there, and students are expected to participate by having an active presence on the discussion board. Students may ask questions, respond to the questions raised by peers, post articles, insights or ideas etc. The purpose of the boards is to inspire discussion and to keep the discussion going for the duration of the case. Posts are graded as pass/fail. Students do not have to contribute each week. Students are required to participate on the discussion boards at least 3 times during the semester (at their convenience). Students are encouraged to post more than 3 times but will not receive bonus points for doing so.

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+	90 - 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	85 - 89%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	80 - 84%	3.7	
B+	77 - 79%	3.3	
B	74 - 76%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 - 73%	2.7	
C+	67 - 69%	2.3	
C	64 – 66%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	60 - 63%	1.7	
D+	55 - 59%	1.3	
D	50 - 54%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	0 - 49%	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 Social Science – Food Court.

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](#)