



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
FACULTY OF ARTS

Law & Society 591.01
Integrative Seminar
Fall 2017

Course Summary

INSTRUCTOR: Ian Brodie
OFFICE: SS 838
EMAIL: irbrodie@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS: W 1-2
COURSE DAY/TIME: W 2:00 – 4:45
COURSE LOCATION: SS 113
D2L NAME: TBA

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

An advanced seminar integrating philosophical, theoretical, social, and legal approaches to understanding the relationship between law and society.

Course Details

COURSE OVERVIEW

The federal government has introduced legislation to legalize the possession of cannabis and plans to see the new law in force by the middle of 2018.

Legalization is a complex issue, entwined in many socio-legal issues and considerations. This edition of LWSO 591 will let students consider the dimensions of this reform, including the philosophical, international, federal-provincial, policing and health issues involved. The instructor will set broad topics to be covered; however, the course will rely heavily on student-led research. Students will be assigned topics and be expected to report to the class on their progress twice during the semester. Working in pairs, students will also lead the class response to the student presentation on one other topic. In the end, each student will prepare a detailed term paper on the assigned topic.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate high levels of undergraduate competence in self-directed research and exploration of a complex topic.
2. Present research findings to a peer group, clearly indicating depth of understanding of a serious topic.
3. Appraise research by other peers, pointing out strong arguments and areas requiring further thought and research.

OTHER EXPECTATIONS

Cannabis legalization has been a controversial topic for decades. Students are asked to keep in mind that there are several legitimate points of view about it and make every effort to give open-minded consideration to all of them while subjecting them to questions. We will assume good faith unless participants demonstrate otherwise.

This is an advanced seminar on a focused and timely issue. Students are expected to arrive on time, to keep up with the readings and to keep abreast of the unfolding public debate on cannabis regulation. The course moves quickly through a great deal of material.

Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated. Please no eating during class.

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number

(LWSO591) 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 violating customary email conventions will be ignored. All other emails will be answered within one business day. I do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments. 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. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person during instructor office hours.

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

LEARNING RESOURCES

Sources will be available on the D2L site for the course.

If you need help accessing or using D2L, please visit the Desire2Learn resource page for students: <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/>.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

There are five graded components:

First presentation – 20% of the final grade

Date, time and location: As assigned, during the first half of the course

Length: 10-15 minutes

Associated learning objectives: 1 and 2

Description: During the first half of the semester, students will present preliminary findings on their assigned topic one by one. Each student will assign an appropriate introductory reading about the assigned topic and make it available to colleagues through D2L one week in advance of the presentation. Presentations should present a balanced overview of the topic and lead to a discussion or debate among all seminar participants.

Second presentation – 25% of the final grade

Date, time and location: As assigned, during the second half of the course

Length: 10-15 minutes

Associated learning objectives: 1 and 2

Description: During the second half of the semester, students will present more advanced findings on their assigned topic one by one. Each student will assign an appropriate advanced reading about the assigned topic and make it available to colleagues through D2L one week in advance of the presentation. Each presentation will be followed by a formal response, leading to a discussion or debate among all

seminar participants.

Response to second presentation – 10% of the final grade

Date, time and location: As assigned, during the second half of the course

Length: 10 minutes

Associated learning objectives: 3

Description: Students will be assigned to provide a response to the second presentation of another student.

Participation – 10% of the final grade

Date, time and location: Throughout the semester

Description: Students will be graded on their participation in weekly meetings.

Final term paper

Value: 35%

Length: 25-30 pages

Due date: December 6, 2017, uploaded to D2L in PDF format

Associated learning objectives: 1.

Description: The term paper will consider the issue of the legalization of cannabis in Canada, with a special focus on the issue assigned.

GRADE SCALE

The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

Other policies and information

Deferrals

When possible, please provide advance notice 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, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment 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 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).

Grade reappraisals

Within two weeks of an assignment being returned, students seeking reappraisal must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration. 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.

Appeals

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student can then proceed with an academic appeal. The first in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head.

University Regulations

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Plagiarism and Other Forms of 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>

Ethics Research

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.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)

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.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at Professional Faculties Building Food Court. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at:

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

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

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>

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.

Course Schedule

This course schedule is subject to change. Updates will be posted under “News” on the course D2L site.

September 13 – Course Introduction

- Objectives, components, evaluation
- Topic assignments
- Dealing with sources
- Classroom environment

First Presentations:

September 20

- History of cannabis and the law in Canada to the LeDain Commission
- Philosophical issues of cannabis use: liberty, self-harm and order

September 27

- Personal impact of cannabis use
- Community impact of cannabis use

October 4

- The international law of drugs and cannabis – conventions
- The US context – legal and social issues

October 11

- The McLellan Report
- The Trudeau Plan

October 18

- Regulating retail sales – comparisons, precedents
- Likely health impacts

October 25

- Likely policing impacts

- Taxing cannabis

Second Presentations:

November 1

- History of cannabis and the law in Canada to the LeDain Commission
- Philosophical issues of cannabis use: liberty, self-harm and order

November 8

- Personal impact of cannabis use
- Community impact of cannabis use

November 15

- The international law of drugs and cannabis – conventions
- The US context – legal and social issues

November 22

- The McLellan Report
- The Trudeau Plan

November 29

- Regulating retail sales – comparisons, precedents
- Likely health impacts

December 6

- Likely policing impacts
- Taxing cannabis