

Law and Society 201 – Lecture 02
Introduction to Legal Studies
Fall 2012
Saturday 13:00 to 16:30

Instructor: Sharon Ramraj-Thompson

Office Location: TBA

Office Phone: TBA

E-Mail: TBA

Office Hours: Saturdays 12:00 to 13:00 and by appointment

Course Description

This is an introductory course in the Law and Society Program. It will provide you with both a theoretical and practical framework with which to examine specific issues in Canadian law. The texts chosen will enable us to analyze historical and international sociocultural influences in the formation of Canadian legal culture.

The course will examine both literary (imaginative) and theoretical perceptions of law and legal systems in our society. The literary and theoretical texts complement each other and will allow us to see how our legal system administers justice and fairness, how our trial systems have evolved, and how law should and does impose structures and rules in society.

We will begin our study of the literary (imaginative) texts with short excerpts from the *Bible*, which sets up a basis for Law and Authority. We will proceed to examine Thomas Hardy's "The Three Strangers" (1883), which questions Victorian society's infliction of capital punishment. Then we will consider *The Trial and Death of Socrates* (399 BCE), Louis Riel's speech to the court (1885), and Susan Glaspell's "Jury of her Peers" (1917), which all examine the evolution of the trial and jury system. We will conclude with examining two famous Shakespearean plays that invoke the law: *The Merchant of Venice* (1598) and *The Tempest* (1611) – the former assesses justice and equity and the latter looks at imposing law on a lawless structure.

These literary texts will be paired with Chapters from Vago's and Nelson's *Law and Society* text to provide some practical and sociological consideration of the theoretical elements of our legal system.

This course will also discuss the law as it relates to current issues facing society today, so students are encouraged to keep up with the news and current events.

Textbooks and Readings:

On-line works (in public domain)

- (1) "The Three Strangers" (short story by Thomas Hardy – on-line link to be posted on Blackboard)
- (2) *The Bible* – (short passages, on-line link to be posted on Blackboard)
- (3) "Jury of her Peers" (short story by Susan Glaspell – on-line link to be posted on Blackboard)
- (4) Louis Riel's Speech to the Jury (site to be posted on Blackboard)

Texts that will be available at the Bookstore

- (1) Plato. *The Trial and Death of Socrates*. (trans. G.M.A. Grube), Hackett Publishing
- (2) William Shakespeare. *The Merchant of Venice*. (Ed. Roma Gill) Oxford University Press.
- (3) William Shakespeare. *The Tempest*. (Ed. Roma Gill) Oxford University Press.
- (4) Steven Vago and Adie Nelson, eds. *Law and Society* 3rd edition.

Assignments and Evaluation

Short answer - in-class examination (25%) on all material covered to date on **Saturday October 13, 2012**

Essay 5-7 pages (35%) **Topics to be provided in class on October 20, 2012, due at the start of class on November 3, 2012.** Students are expected to have appropriate writing competence and skills; part of the grade will be based on this.

Final Exam (40%) – open book - covering Shakespeare texts and *Law and Society* text during examination period.

**** Electronic assignments will not be accepted unless you obtain my permission ****

All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing mark unless otherwise specified by the instructor

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:

Yes

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (for example: 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

	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

Saturday, September 15, 2012 – Introduction to the Class. Review course outline and first assignment. Overview of the rest of the lectures and assignments. Examine Chapter 1 “Introduction” in *Law and Society*.

Saturday, September 22, 2012 - Examine Chapter 2 “Theoretical Perspectives” in *Law and Society* and Biblical passages (evolution of Law and Authority).

Saturday, September 29, 2012 - Examine Chapter 5 in *Law and Society* “Law and Social Control” and Thomas Hardy’s “The Three Strangers.”

Saturday, October 6, 2012 - Examine Chapter 3 “The Organization of Law” in *Law and Society* (selections from this chapter).

Saturday October 13, 2012 - in-class examination - short answer on all material to date - in class. *Trial and Death of Socrates* and “Final Statement of Louis Riel at his trial in Regina”

Saturday October 20, 2012 - Continue examining October 6 and October 12 topics. Examine Chapter 7 of *Law and Society*, “Law and Social Change” **Essay topic given out. Essay due November 3, 2012**

Saturday October 27, 2012 - examine Susan Glaspell’s “Jury of her Peers.”

Saturday November 3, 2012 - Essay due. Examine Chapter 8 in *Law and Society* “The Legal Profession” and start Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice*

Saturday November 11, 2012 – no class, reading break

Saturday November 17, 2012 – Continue examining of Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice*.

November 24, 2012 – Examine Chapter 4 in *Law and Society*, “Lawmaking” (selections) and start examining *the Tempest*

Saturday December 1, 2012 – Conclude examining *The Tempest*. Class wrap-up.

Ethics

No research involving human subjects will be done in this course.

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.

Please include at the end of your essay this signed statement:

"I verify that I have read the University of Calgary's statement on plagiarism, that I am the author of this essay/term paper, and that I have acknowledged clearly all debts and borrowings."

Internet and electronic communication device information

The use of internet and electronic devices (laptops, electronic devices—no cell phone use please) during class is permitted. Students are expected to keep internet use to matters pertaining to the class and lectures.

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 SS110, 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.