



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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| • Fall 2018 | • T/R 12:30-13:45 | • MFH 162 |
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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.

Course Schedule

Week 1. What is Law and Society?	September 3 – 7
Tuesday: No Classes	
Thursday: Introductions and Course Overview	
Week 2. Why Do We Think the Way That We Do?	September 10 – 14
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?	September 17 – 21
Tuesday: What is Liberalism?	
Thursday: What is Conservatism?	
Week 4. History: Legal History, an Overview	September 24 – 28
Tuesday: Introducing the Paper Assignment and Guest Speakers: Student Success Centre – Critical Reading.	
Thursday: Part 1: Jesuits and Early Colonial Morality	
Week 5. Legal History: The Fall of New France and the Royal Proclamation	October 1 – 5
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	October 8 – 12
Tuesday: The Recognition of Indigenous Rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore: Canadian Human Rights Commission. Indigenous Rights: Key Issues. Retrieved from: www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/eng/content/indigenous-peoples	
Thursday: What is the Constitution, its Components, and its Purpose? (Paper Due)	
Week 7. The Role of the Courts in Upholding Our Rights and Freedoms	October 15- 19
Tuesday: Rights and Equalities (Case Study: LGBTQ)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read: Simons, P. (March 22, 2018). <i>Edmonton Journal</i>. How the Vriend case established LGBTQ rights 20 years ago in Alberta — and across Canada. Retrieved from: https://edmontonjournal.com/news/insight/paula-simons-how-the-vriend-case-established-lgbtq-rights-20-years-ago-in-alberta-and-across-canada	
Thursday: The Power of Judges (Part 1): Roles and Appointments	
Week 8. Continuation of the Role of the Courts and Test Review	October 22 - 26
Tuesday: The Power of Judges (Part 2): Activism (Case Study: Judge Aquilina)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen: The law court that helps addicts get clean. (April 201, 2018). CBC Radio. Retrieved from: https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thesundayedition/the-sunday-edition-april-15-2018-1.4618174/the-law-court-that-helps-addicts-get-clean-1.4618207	
Thursday: Test 1 Review	

Week 9. The Interplay Between Law and Evolving Social Ethics (part 1) October 29 – November 2

Tuesday: Test 1

Thursday: Evolving Morality and the Evolution of Ethics and Social Change (Hobbes and Hume)

- **Watch:** David Hume (The School of Life)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HS52H_CqZLE
- **Then Read:** Flage, D. E. (1985). Hume's Ethics. *Philosophical Topics*, 13(3), p. 71 -88. Retrieved from:
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/43154629.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3Af304efb99336191d5db0ceefde254921>

Week 10. The Interplay Between Law and Evolving Social Ethics (part 2) November 5 - 9

Tuesday: How Does Law Respond to Social Change? (Case Study: Civil Rights)

Thursday: Case Study: Decriminalization of Prostitution

- **Read:** Makin, K. (June 3, 2018). *Globe and Mail*. Why the Courts Must Decriminalize Prostitution. Retrieved from:
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/why-the-courts-must-decriminalize-prostitution/article598683/>

Week 11. Term Break, No Classes November 12 - 16

Tuesday: Term Break, No Classes

Thursday: Term Break, No Classes

Week 12. Postmodern Jurisprudence November 19 - 23

Tuesday: What is Post-Modern Jurisprudence?

Thursday: Neurolaw, A Legal Frontier

- **Read:** Kraft, C. J., & Giordano, J. (2017). Integrating Brain Science and Law: Neuroscientific Evidence and Legal Perspectives on Protecting Individual Liberties. *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, 11, 621. Retrieved from:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5682320/>

Week 13. Postmodernity: 'Big Data' and the Law November 26 – 30

Tuesday: Geno-Mapping and the Legal System

- **Read:** <https://www.vox.com/2018/4/27/17290288/golden-state-killer-joseph-james-deangelo-dna-profile-match>

Thursday: Big Data Law Enforcement and the Rise of Predictive Policing

- **Read:** <https://www.economist.com/open-future/2018/06/04/how-data-driven-policing-threatens-human-freedom>

Week 14. Test Review and Test 1 December 3 - 7

Tuesday: Postmodernity and the Law continued

Thursday: Course Review

Methods of Evaluation

1. *Written Assignment* (30%)

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.

Due: October 11th, 2018

2. Test (30%)

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.

Date: October 30th, 2018

3. Final Exam (30%)

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.

Date: TBD (Registrar-scheduled)

4. Reading Responses (10%)

Each week you are required to submit to D2L a 300-word (approx.) reflection of the assigned readings for that week. The reading response should be a fully integrated reflection, not a summary of what you read. Your first submission will be due for the Week 2 readings. You will submit a total of 10 reading responses. Each submission accounts for 1% of your final grade. You have 3 “free tickets” between Week 2 and Week 14. For each “free ticket,” instead of the response, please simply write your name, student number and indicate this is your “free ticket” week. Any other failure to submit the reading response will result in a mark of zero for that week.

Date: Each Week

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 to 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 **Education Block – Food Court**.

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **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.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

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.

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>

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 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