



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
FACULTY OF ARTS

Law & Society 201 L01
Introduction to Legal Studies
Spring 2017

INSTRUCTOR: Kirsten Kramar

OFFICE: Social Science 828

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OFFICE HOURS: T/W 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

COURSE DAY/TIME: M/W 1:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

COURSE LOCATION: EDC 388

D2L NAME: Introduction to Legal Studies

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Overview of the role of law in society. Examination of different concepts of law. Study of legal rules, institutions, processes and personnel in social context. Discussion of construction and exercise of the power of law. Emphasis on Canadian law and legal system.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This section of LWSO 201 is a lecture-based course. Students will learn about key aspects of the Canadian judicial process and its relationship to law and politics. Some of the material relies on the textbook and supplementary readings like court cases, but most of the material comes in the class lectures. We will draw on both current and older issues.

Attendance is not mandatory. However, students who do not attend the lectures will be ill-prepared for the exams. In the past, students who did not attend lectures did very poorly in the course.

Students should expect to spend one or two hours preparing for each class session by reading the assigned materials. All materials are required readings. Depending on the quality of the class notes taken, students may expect to spend another two to four hours preparing for the mid-term examination and then again for the final examination. While the written assignment will not require library research, it will require several hours to read and understand a court case and draft a short summary and analysis.

OTHER EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to arrive on time and having already read the readings for the week. The course moves quickly through a great deal of material.

To ensure the best learning environment for all students, students are asked to avoid use of laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Students who require the use of electronic devices for academic accommodation purposes are exempt from this policy. 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.

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line. Also, it is courteous to 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 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.** Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office visit, if there is something you want to discuss. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.

OBJECTIVES

In the first half of the course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and describe key sources of Canadian law, including constitutional law;
2. Describe the foundational concepts of “law” and “politics” and the basic logic, structure, and processes of the courts;
3. Explain the key organizational features of the Canadian judicial system, including quasi-judicial mechanisms for resolving disputes;
4. Explain the processes of judicial decision-making, judicial selection, independence and accountability;
5. Develop the ability to write well-organized succinct academically rigorous responses to questions that address the range of issues and debates in the study of Canadian law that incorporates knowledge gained from course materials, lecture notes, and supplementary reading.

In the second half of the course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and describe key actors in the Canadian legal process;
2. Explain the debates about judicial activism and the dialogue between governments and courts;
3. Describe the effect of criminal, civil and constitutional litigation in the development of law and policy in Canadian society;
4. Analyze a court case in depth, understanding its social and historical context and evaluating its strong and weak points by producing a short summary and analysis.
6. Develop the ability to write well-organized succinct academically rigorous

responses to questions that address the range of issues and debates in the study of Canadian law that incorporates knowledge gained from course materials, lecture notes, and supplementary reading.

LEARNING RESOURCES

The following textbook has most of the required readings and can be found in the University of Calgary Bookstore (www.calgarybookstore.ca):

Hausegger, L., M. Hennigar and T. Riddell. 2015. *Canadian Courts: Law, Politics and Process (2nd Ed)*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press. Other required readings are 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 three requirements to complete this course.

Article Critique	20%	May 29
Mid-Term Exam	30%	June 5
Final Exam	50%	TBA

Midterm Exam (30%)

The midterm is a 75-minute exam, which might include multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blanks, short answer, and short essay questions. Questions cover the assigned readings (irrespective of whether they were discussed in lecture), lectures, in-class exercises, discussions, and films. Please refer to the reading schedule below for chapters covered in the exam.

Final Exam (50%)

The 2-hour final exam will consist of 100 multiple choice questions. Questions cover the assigned readings (irrespective of whether they were discussed in

lecture), lectures, in-class exercises, discussions, and films. More detailed information will be provided in class prior to the exam. **Please note that the registrar-scheduled final exam period is June 28-30, 2017. Do not make travel arrangements until you know when the final for this class has been scheduled.**

More information about the article critique will be presented in class. Late assignments will receive a 10% deduction per week from the grade earned on the assignment unless an explicit extension is received well in advance of the due date. All requirements must be completed in order to pass this course.

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 Grade reappraisals

Up to one week after an exam or assignment is returned, a student may seek a reappraisal of the grade from the instructor. To do so, the student must submit a written request briefly explaining the grounds for the reappraisal. Note, a reappraisal may raise, lower or confirm the grade originally assigned.

Absence from Mid Term Examination

Students who are absent from the mid-term examination for legitimate reasons

(e.g. illness with the appropriate documentation) are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of Final Examination

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 the student does not show that just cause.

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).

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.

Academic Accommodation

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (MC 293, phone 403-220-8237) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf. Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.

Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)

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.

Any uncollected assignments and tests will be destroyed after three months; final examinations are destroyed after one year. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in the designated assembly point. For this course the assembly point is the **Scurfield Hall Atrium**.

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 2016-17 Students' Union VP Academic is Alicia Lunz (suvpaca@ucalgary.ca). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and arts4@ucalgary.ca. You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

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.