



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

Spring 2022  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Sociology  
Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Legal Studies			
Course Number	LWSO 201		
Pre/Co-Requisites	None		
Instructor Name	Dr Kirsten Kramar	Email	kirsten.kramar@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	<p>Feel free to contact me over email at any time. To ensure a prompt reply, please put your course number – LWSO 201 - 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. I do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining to assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for a meeting, 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 during my office hours. <i>Please note the proper spelling of my name</i>, there are members of the University of Calgary community with names very similar to mine so please ensure you are sending your correspondence to the correct email address.</p>		
Office Location	SS 1004	Office Hours	M/T/W/TH 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Telephone No.	403.220.4665 (no voicemail)		
Class Dates	Wednesday May 4, 2022 – Thursday June 16, 2022		
Class Times	M/W 13:00 - 15:45		
Class Location	ST 143		

## **COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT**

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 DESCRIPTION**

Lecture based format. Introduction to Canada's courts, judicial decision-making, independence and accountability, interest groups, governments in courts, criminal justice policy and process, civil justice, policy-making and judicial impact.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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;

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

1. Identify and describe key actors in the Canadian legal process;
2. Understand which groups litigate and why;
3. Explain the difference between judicial activism and judicial dialogue between governments and courts; and,
4. Describe the effect of criminal, civil and constitutional litigation in the development of law and policy in Canadian society.

## **LEARNING RESOURCES**

Hausegger, L., M. Hennigar and T. Riddell. 2015. *Canadian Courts: Law, Politics and Process (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed)*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

All of the supplementary materials for this course will be placed in weekly folders with an accompanying 'task list' of weekly readings, narrated lecture slides, audio-visual materials, and learning checks assigned for each week. We will cover roughly 2 chapters per week.

## **LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2L.ucalgary.ca](http://d2L.ucalgary.ca)).

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

See Weekly Folders in D2L for course schedule, weekly readings, PowerPoint Slides, supplementary materials and learning checks.

## **EXAMINATIONS**

The final exam is worth 30% of your final grade. The exam is cumulative of all work covered in the course. It is open book, and comprised of multiple choice, multiple selection, and true/false questions. The day and time of the final exam is scheduled by the Registrar. Students will have access

to the exam for a 24 hour period ending with the Registrar’s scheduled time. Within that window, student will have (90 minutes plus 50% or 45 minutes extra time for a total exam time of 135 minutes) to write the exam once they begin it.

### ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

	Assessment	Weight	Week
1	Four (4) Learning Checks Delivered via D2L Each learning check aligns with completed chapters of your textbook	40%	Quiz 1: May 9 Quiz 2: May 16 Quiz 3: June 6 Quiz 4: June 15
2	Midterm Delivered via D2L	30%	May 25
3	Final Exam (cumulative) Delivered via D2L	30%	Registrar Scheduled Exam

#### 1. Learning Checks (40%)

Learning checks will open at 2:30 p.m. on the dates listed above. The quizzes can be found in the weekly folders in D2L. Learning checks are “open book” (though you should not need the resources if you have studied!). The learning checks will be available for 24 hours once they open to allow for flexibility. Each learning check is multiple choice and/or T/F. Each learning check is timed and sequential. Once you begin the learning check you will have 60 minutes to complete 30 questions.

The learning checks consist of key questions and cover the readings and lecture materials for each relevant week (pro-tip: look for overlap between readings and lectures). To preserve academic integrity and in fairness to all students, you will not be able to see the quiz questions as soon as you complete them. The score will be made available to you once you submit your quiz. You will be able to access your answers showing correct/incorrect answers once everyone has completed the learning check. This will be helpful for you to study for the final exam.

**NB:** If for some unforeseen reason you are not able to complete the learning check during the 24-hour window please contact the instructor – I am able to accommodate reasonable unforeseen issues that may arise by providing a short extension to your individual timeframe for the learning checks.

#### 2. Midterm (30%) May 25, 2022 @ 2:30 (window open for 24 hours until May 26, 2022 @ 2:30)

The midterm test is cumulative, open book, timed and sequential. There are 60 questions to complete in 75 minutes. A portion of the midterm test questions will be drawn from your previous learning checks, so be sure to review your answers on each of these to prepare for the midterm test. Every effort is made to ensure that questions provide a fair and accurate assessment of what has been taught and to allow for self-directed feedback on individual results. You will be able to review your answers after everyone has completed the midterm assessment to get learning feedback from incorrect/correct answers. Each of the learning checks and the midterm will be useful study aids in preparing for the cumulative final exam.

**NB:** If for some unforeseen reason you are not able to complete the midterm during the 24-hour window please contact the instructor – I am able to accommodate reasonable unforeseen issues that may arise by providing a short extension to your individual timeframe for the midterm.

## GRADING SCALE

This is the Sociology Department’s grading scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
<b>A+</b>	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
<b>A</b>	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent performance
<b>A-</b>	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
<b>B+</b>	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
<b>B</b>	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
<b>B-</b>	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
<b>C+</b>	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
<b>C</b>	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
<b>C-</b>	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
<b>D+</b>	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
<b>D</b>	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
<b>F</b>	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

The final score is calculated by adding up your scores on each weighted component in the course.

## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

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

1. **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 can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary
2. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

## 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/m-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 can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

**Deferred Term Work Form:** Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available [here](#).

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre ([ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)) for approval by the Associate Dean.

## CONDUCT

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

**Section 2 Scope.** The Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy applies to Students' actions, interactions and behaviours that take place a) in or on University Facilities; **b) off University Facilities, including online, including through social media, online communication platforms, remote work applications, or other online means, where such actions, interactions or behaviour have a negative impact on a member of the University Community such that it materially interferes with their University learning, working or living environment;** c) when participating in a University club or organization, or a student club or organization, including student clubs or organizations sanctioned by the Students' Union or Graduate Students' Association; or d) at a University Event.

## USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-electronic-resources-and-information-policy>

## Media Recording for Study Purposes (Students)

Students who wish to audio record lectures for personal study purposes need to follow the guidelines outlined in [Section E.6 of the University Calendar](#). Unless the audio recording of lectures is part of a student accessibility requirement, permission must be sought by the course instructor to audio record lectures. Students are encouraged to make notes of classroom discussions, lectures, demonstrations, and performances in order to advance their own learning and to develop a record for purposes of private study. The ordinary process of taking notes is encouraged since this practice requires that

students develop the ability to actively attend to the material under consideration and to quickly summarize pertinent information in a coherent manner. Electronic or mechanical recording of lectures discourages the development of these important skills. In addition, the presence of audio recording devices may inhibit frank and open discussion of course material in the classroom, or otherwise interfere with the proper academic conduct of the class. See also Section K.1 Other Impermissible Conduct: The non-authorized media recording of lectures is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and may result in discipline in accordance with the [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#) and [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Procedure](#).

### **FREE EXPRESSION**

All members of the university have the right of free expression, which means the freedom to investigate, comment, listen, gather, challenge and critique subject to the law and, on our campuses, to university policies and procedures related to the functioning of the university.

In 2019, the University of Calgary published a statement committed to the principles of free expression: [ucalgary.ca/provost/sites/default/files/StatementonFreeExpression.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/sites/default/files/StatementonFreeExpression.pdf).

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedure>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

### **RESEARCH ETHICS**

(if applicable) Students are advised that any research with human participants – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the [Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board](#) or the [Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board](#). 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. Some courses will include assignments that involve conducting research with human participants; in these cases, the instructor will have applied for and received ethics approval for the course assignment. The instructor will discuss the ethical requirements for the assignment with the students.

### **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>

### **Important Contact Information**

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)  
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives  
Phone: 403-220-6551  
Email: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)  
Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association  
Phone: 403-220-5997  
Email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)  
URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman  
Phone: 403-220-6420  
Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

### **Campus Mental Health Resources**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

*SU Wellness Centre:* <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

*Student Wellness Services:*

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

*Campus Mental Health Strategy website:* <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.