

**Law and Society 201 – Lecture 01**  
**Introduction to Legal Studies**  
Winter 2016  
**MWF 11:00 – 11:50**  
**ENA103**

**Instructor:** Sharon Ramraj-Thompson

**Office** SS941

**Location:**

**Office Phone:** n/a

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**Office**

**Hours:** W 11:50 to 12:30 or by appointment

**Course Description, Objectives, and Learning Outcomes**

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) 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 *The Merchant of Venice*, the famous Shakespearean play that invokes the law and principles of justice and equity. 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 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 D2L)
- (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 D2L)

### 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) Steven Vago and Adie Nelson, eds. *Law and Society* 5th edition.

## Assignments and Evaluation

**Mid-Term #1 - (40% of final grade). Monday, Feb 8, 2016, in class.** The first mid-term all material covered in class and the associated readings, up to and including the class before Mid-Term #1. It will be a multiple-choice and / or short answer examination.

**Mid-Term #2 – (40% of final grade). Wednesday, February 10, 2016 to Friday March 11, 2016, in class.** The second mid-term will cover all material covered in class and the associated readings after Mid Term #1 up to and including the class before Mid Term #2. It is not cumulative. It will be a multiple-choice and / or short answer examination.

**Quiz #1 - (10% of final grade), Wednesday, March 24, 2016, in class,** The quiz will cover all material in Chapter 3, in class, and associated items posted on D2L. It will be a multiple-choice and / or short answer examination.

**Quiz #2 - (10% of final Grade), Wednesday, April 11, 2016, in class** on *Trial and Death of Socrates*. It will be a multiple-choice and / or short answer.

**\*\* 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

**Grading System:** The following grading system is used in the Faculty of Arts:

	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

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

### **Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:**

No

### **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

**Monday January 11, 2016, Wednesday Jan 13, 2016** – Introduction to the Class.  
Review course outline. Overview of the rest of the lectures and assignments.

**Friday Jan 15, 2016 – Wednesday Jan 20, 2016** - Examine Chapter 1 “Introduction” in *Law and Society*.

**Friday, January 22, 2016 – Wednesday, January 27, 2016** - Examine Chapter 2 “Theoretical Perspectives” in *Law and Society* and Biblical passages (evolution of Law and Authority).

**Friday, January 29, 2016 - Wednesday, February 8, 2016** - Examine Chapter 5 in *Law and Society* “Law and Social Control” and Thomas Hardy’s “The Three Strangers.”

**Monday, February 8, 2016** - in-class examination worth 40% of your final grade - short answer on all material from the beginning of class to date

**Wednesday February 10, 2016 – Friday, February 26, 2016 (no classes February 15, 17, and 19<sup>th</sup>)** examine Susan Glaspell’s “Jury of her Peers” and actual trial the story is based on (links to be posted on D2L)

**Friday, March 26, 2016- Friday, March 11, 2016** - Examine Chapter 8 in *Law and Society* “The Legal Profession.” Start Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice*

**Monday March 14, 2016** – in-class examination worth 40% of your final grade - short answer on all material from February 10, 2016 to March 11, 2016.

**Monday, March 16, 2016 – Friday, March 21, 2016**– Examine Chapter 3 in *Law and Society* “The Organization of Law” in Chapter 5 “Dispute Resolution”

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 – 10% quiz – in class, on Chapter 3 – organization of law and related materials posted on D2L

**Monday March 29, 2016 – Friday April 8, 2016** *Trial and Death of Socrates*

**Monday, April 11, 2016** - Quiz 10% in class – Trial and Death of Socrates

**Wednesday April 13, 2016** – course wrap-up

### **Notes and Policies:**

#### **Technology Use**

Please note that the use of laptops, tablets, cell phones or other electronic devices is permitted during lectures but **only** for the use of preparing for the 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 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. Also, please e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. 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.

#### **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-2-1.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: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp\\_Su\\_DFE\\_App.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.pdf)

**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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.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 2015-16 Students’ Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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>

## **Emergency Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at the ICT Food Court

## **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**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services ; 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/).

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. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)