



LWSO 201 INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL STUDIES			
Pre/Co-Requisites	N/A		
Instructor:	Dr. Qian Liu	Lecture Location:	ICT 102
Phone:	220.6512	Lecture Days/Time:	TuTh 9.30 am – 10.45 am
Email:	qian.liu2@ucalgary.ca	TA	Abigail Baah
Office:	SS 948	Office Hours:	Tu 2 pm – 3.30 pm
Instructor Email Policy	<p>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. 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. 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.</p>		

Course Description

Law is everywhere. Law shapes our day to day lives in countless ways. This course examines the connections and relationships of law and society using an interdisciplinary social science approach. We will consider how law shapes, and is shaped by, the social, political, and cultural contexts in which it exists. We will examine law and society questions such as: What is Law? How does law operate? How are law and everyday life intertwined? Can law change society? What can we learn from the disparity between abstract law and real law? How does law treat issues of race and ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation?

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This course is intended to foster critical reading, thinking, and writing skills to discuss broad, interdisciplinary questions of social justice and the law. The readings, lectures, papers, and examinations are designed to achieve the following goals:

- Learning about and questioning the role of law in society;
- Employing an interdisciplinary approach to sociolegal studies;
- Comparing social science theories of law;
- Applying these methods of analysis to real world problems.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

📖 Steven Vago et al. 2018. *Law and Society*, Fifth Canadian Edition, New York and London: Routledge. [Available in hard copy or in digital format.]

📖 Several online journal articles and book chapters will be available on D2L.

Optional:

📖 Kitty Calavita. 2016. *Invitation to Law & Society: An Introduction to the Study of Real Law*, Second Edition, Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Part One: Locating Law and Ourselves

Law, say the gardeners, is the sun.

Law is the one

All gardeners obey

To-morrow, yesterday, to-day.

--W.H. Auden (1939)

January 10 Tuesday	Welcome to LWSO 201: Introduction and Mutual Expectations 📖 No reading
January 12 Thursday	Introduction to Law and Society 📖 Vago et al., Chapter 1: Introduction (pp. ix to 24) 📖 Calavita, Chapter 1: Introduction (pp. 1-10). Available on D2L-Reading List (Leganto).
January 17 Tuesday	Law and Everyday Life 📖 Patricia Ewick (2015), "Law and Everyday Life," <i>International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences</i> , 2 nd edition, pp.468-473.
January 19 Thursday	Law in Everyday Life 📖 Austin Sarat (1990). "'The Law is All Over': Power, Resistance, and the Legal Consciousness of the Welfare Poor," <i>Yale Journal of Law & the Humanities</i> 344-379.
January 24 Tuesday	The Common Place of Law 📖 Patricia Ewick & Susan Silbey. (1998). <i>The Common Place of Law</i> , Chapter Three: The Social Construction of Legality, pp. 33-53. Available on D2L-Reading List (Leganto).
January 26 Thursday	Legal Consciousness 📖 Lynette Chua and David Engel (2021), "Legal Consciousness," in <i>Routledge Handbook of Law and Society</i> , pp. 187-191. 📖 Lesley A. Jacobs (2003), "Legal Consciousness and its Significance for Law and Society Teaching Outside Canadian Law Schools," <i>Canadian Journal of Law and Society</i> pp. 61-65.
January 31 Tuesday	Finding Law in our Communities 📖 No readings – working on your assignment.
February 2 Thursday	Test One The first test will cover what we have studied so far.




Part Two: Theoretical Foundations of Law and Society

Law, says the judge as he looks down his nose,
 Speaking clearly and most severely,
 Law is as I've told you before,
 Law is as you know I suppose,
 Law is but let me explain it once more,
 Law is The Law.

Yet law-abiding scholars write:

Law is neither wrong nor right,
 Law is only crime
 Punished by place and by times,
 Law is the clothes men wear
 Anytime, anywhere,
 Law is Good-morning and Good-night.
 --W.H. Auden (1939)

February 7 Tuesday	Too many theories, too scary? Guest Lecture: How to Read Critically for Information Guest speakers: Roxanne Ross and Steve Mason 📖 No readings
February 9 Thursday	Classic Legal Theorizing 📖 Vago et al., Chapter 2 Theoretical Perspectives pp. 29-46.
February 14 Tuesday	But you haven't told me where to find law on the book! We will study how to use the law library and databases. Guest speaker: Nadine Hoffman, Bennett Jones Law Library 📖 No readings
February 16 Thursday	Law-on-the-book and Law-in-action 📖 Valerie Jenness and Ryken Grattet (2005), "The Law-in-Between: The Effects of Organizational Perviousness on the Policing of Hate Crime," <i>Social Problems</i> 52 (3), pp. 337-359.
Reading Break	February 19-25
February 28 Tuesday	Legal Pluralism & Indigenous Legal Orders 📖 Val Napoleon (2019), "Legal Pluralism and Reconciliation," <i>Māori Law Review</i> pp.3-17. 📖 Optional: Brian Z Tamanaha, "Understanding Legal Pluralism: Past to Present, Local to Global," 30 <i>Sydney Law Review</i> 375 (2008).
March 2 Thursday	Feminist & Queer Legal Theory 📖 The Global News, 2018, "Single Mothers by Choice: 'It's the best decision I've ever made,'" https://globalnews.ca/news/4310124/single-mother-fertility-family-matters-twins/ 📖 The Sunday Magazine, 2019, "The Mamas and the Papas: How two Ottawa couples became co-parents," https://www.cbc.ca/radio/sunday/the-sunday-edition-for-january-27-2019-1.4989313/the-mamas-and-the-papas-how-two-ottawa-couples-became-co-parents-1.4989318 📖 Vago et al., Chapter 2 Theoretical Perspectives, pp. 59-52 (The critical legal studies movement – feminist legal theory)

	Guest speaker: J Overholser (Ph.D. student at the Department of Sociology who has deep knowledge and experience of feminist and queer theory & activism)
March 7 Tuesday	Critical Race Theory  The Conversation Canada: Why Critical Race Theory Should Inform Schools? https://theconversation.com/why-critical-race-theory-should-inform-schools-185169  Vago et al., Chapter 2 Theoretical Perspectives, pp. 49-50; 53-54 (critical race theory).
March 9 Thursday	Rethinking everyday life from a legal theoretical lens  No readings- working on your assignment.
March 14	Test Two Test Two will focus on material covered in Part Two.

Part Three: Law's Relationship to Society

Others say, Law is our Fate:









Others say, Law is our State;

Others say, others say

Law is no more

Law has gone away.

--W.H. Auden (1939)

March 16 Thursday	Law and Social Control  Vago et al., Chapter 5: Law and Social Control, pp. 123-129. Guest speaker: Abigail Baah (Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Sociology who has extensive experience conducting research on prisoner re-entry).
March 21 Tuesday	Access to Justice  Trevor Farrow (2014), "What is Access to Justice?" <i>Osgood Hall Law Journal</i> pp.959-984.
March 23 Thursday	Law and Dispute Resolution  Vago et al., Chapter 6: Law and Dispute Resolution pp. 154-162;  David M. Engel. (2016) "Like it or Lump it," in David Engel. <i>The Myth of the Litigious Society: Why We Don't Sue</i> . Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, pp. 20-36. Available on D2L-Reading List (Leganto).
March 28 Tuesday	Law and Social Change  Vago et al., Chapter 7 Law and Social Change, pp. 185-209.
March 30 Thursday	The Legal Profession  Optional: Vago et al., Chapter 8: The Legal Profession, read 222-238. Guest speaker: Jasreet Badyal, Lawyer, JKB Law.
April 4 Tuesday	Carrying LWSO 201 Forward  Vago et al., Chapter 9: Researching Law in Society 289-308.
April 6 Thursday	Rethinking Law in Society  No readings – working on your assignment
April 11 Tuesday	Test Three Test Three will cover materials in Part Three

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES/DAY
Test One	25%	Your Test One will cover what we study together in Part One of this course. It will consist of multiple-choice questions and true or false questions. It is a closed-book/closed-note exam, meaning that you cannot use any sources during your exam.
Test Two	25%	Your Test Two will cover what we study together in Part Two of this course. It will consist of multiple-choice questions and true or false questions. It is a closed-book/closed-note exam, meaning that you cannot use any sources during your exam.
Test Three	15%	Your Test Three will cover what we study together in Part Three of this course. It will consist of multiple-choice questions and true or false questions. It is a closed-book/closed-note exam, meaning that you cannot use any sources during your exam.
Three Short Essays	10% *3 = 30%	Write a short essay for each part to connect what you have learned with your everyday experience with law (2 pages maximum; double-spaced; formatted in Times New Roman 12 points font). Assignment 1: Finding Law in our Communities (Due Feb 3 at 11:59 pm –D2L dropbox) Assignment 2: Rethinking Everyday Life from a Legal Theoretical Perspective (Due March 15 at 11:59 pm – D2L dropbox) Assignment 3: Rethinking Law in Society (Due April 12 at 11:59 pm – D2L dropbox) Please note that you do not have to wait until the end of each part to write your essay and that early submissions are encouraged.
Self-reflection	5%	Your self-reflection for each part will be submitted via D2L dropbox no later than one week after each test. There will be three self-reflection in total. Missing one will lead to 2% deduction. Your self-reflection is for YOU, so feel free to write or draw whatever makes sense to you.
Total	100%	

Final Examination

Final Exam	No final exams.
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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 performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Missed or Late Coursework

Please note that all assignments are deducted 5% per day if submitted late. Whenever you need an extension for an assignment, you have to contact me at least 48 hours before the deadline.

Libraries & Cultural Resources

To contact your librarian or find out about the resources and services available to sociology students go to the Sociology Library guide: <https://library.ucalgary.ca/guides/sociology>

To access the main Library website, go to: <https://library.ucalgary.ca>

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of that email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor.

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 at: https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf

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) for approval by the Associate Dean.

Deferral of a Final Examination

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' 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, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Academic Accommodations:

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. 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

Research Ethics

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 Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

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 (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them 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, including program planning and advice.

- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

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, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Phone: 403-220-5997
Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: 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/>.