

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
(<http://soci.ucalgary.ca>)

Introduction to Legal Knowledge (LWSO 203)
FALL 2016
M/W/F 2:00 – 2:50
Classroom: MFH 160

Instructor: Dr. Kirsten Kramar

Office Location: SS 828

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Office Hours: M/W/F 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (or by appointment)

Course Description

This course examines the philosophy and science of law as tools of social engineering by investigating the sorts of legal knowledge that underpin private and public law. The course facilitates thinking about the intellectual tools used in legal reasoning in different social contexts through a number of significant historical, philosophical, political, and sociological readings. Decided Canadian cases and other precedent setting legal decisions dealing with individual liberty and freedom, the regulation of borders and migrants, expressions of hatred and obscenity, equality, and terrorism (or states of exception) illustrate how key legal concepts such as risk and harm play out in contemporary Canadian society to constitute particular visions of the just society and govern social order through the rule of law.

Textbook and Readings

Dyzenhaus, David, Sophia Reibetanz Moreau and Arthur Ripstein (Eds). (2007) *Law and Morality: Readings in Legal Philosophy*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. – required

Additional supplementary/recommended readings will be posted for retrieval in Desire2Learn.

Course Schedule

Our schedule and readings may be subject to change – announcements about changes to the course schedule are done in class.

September 12 – 30, 2016

Dyzenhaus *et al* (2007) Chapter 1: Positivism, Legal Order and Morality, and Appendices (The Canada Act, The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Glossary of Legal and Philosophical Terms)

October 3 – 31, 2016

Dyzenhaus *et al* (2007) Chapters 2-4: Adjudication; Feminist Approaches to the Rule of Law; Law and Values: Liberty, Democracy and the Rule of Law

November 4 – December 9, 2016

Dyzenhaus *et al* (2007) Chapters 5-8: Equality, Judicial Review, States of Emergency and the Rule of Law

Assignments and Evaluation

Formal evaluation in this course will consist of three components: a Critical Response Assignment (20%), an in-class essay format Midterm Test (40%) and an essay format Final Term Take-Home Test (40%). The Final Term Take Home Test requires students to answer their choice of 2 questions from a list of questions on the material covered in the final portion of the course. The final term test questions will be discussed in class well in advance of the due date and also uploaded to Desire2Learn (D2L).

Assignment Values and Test Due Dates: Critical Response Assignment 20% (October 3, 2016); Mid-Term Test 40% (November 2, 2016) Final Take Home Test 40% (December 16, 2016).

1. Critical Response Assignment 20% (Due, Monday, October 3, 2016)

This assignment will involve writing a summary and analysis (interpretation and evaluation of evidence) of the assigned readings and cases in Chapter One of your textbook: Morality and the Rule of Law: Positivism, Legal Order and Morality.

The specific questions to be answered will be provided by the professor on Desire2Learn (D2L).

Students should submit assignments through the D2L dropbox on or before midnight (12:00 a.m.) of the due date.

Late assignments are subject to a penalty of ½ letter grade per day. There are no extensions offered without supporting documentation of medical or family emergency for this assignment. If you have last minute difficulties with the assignment, please contact me by phone.

2. Midterm Test 40% (in class, Wednesday, November 2, 2016)

The midterm test aims to cover Chapters 2-4 in your textbook. This is a test written in class and will be made up of two sections. The first section asks you to answer a number of short answer style essay questions and the second section asks you to answer a more substantial essay question. We will take the time to discuss the longer essay question during lectures in advance of the midterm test. You will have a choice of answering one question among a number of available long essay questions. Please see Rights and Responsibilities in the full electronic course outline posted in D2L for the policy on make-up tests.

3. Final Take Home Test 40% (Due Electronically Friday, December 16, 2016)

The end of term take home test will cover the remaining chapters of your textbook (Chapters 5-8). Students will be given a number of possible questions to write about from which to choose. Students should upload their take home test to D2L by midnight on Friday, December 16, 2016.

Your written work should consist of a typed (12pt font using standard margins and academic referencing) answer to the question. The length of your answers will depend upon the question you choose to answer and the case law used to support your argument. There is no required or ideal page length for your answers. If you provide me with a paper copy of your test answer prior to the due date please be sure to paginate and staple your work. Always keep a paper copy of your test answer, and set your computer to 'autosave' every few minutes while writing. You may use any acceptable referencing format, but you must be consistent in your use of that referencing style (MLA, APA, Harvard, or Chicago Style). Students may arrange alternate due dates with the professor for the final take home test (without academic penalty) provided we both agree in writing (via email confirmation) to an alternate acceptable due date. These mutually acceptable alternate arrangements must be made in advance of the due date noted above.

The following letter grades will be assigned to the corresponding numerical scores:

Final Percentage Score	Letter Grade
97-100	A+
90-96	A
85-89	A-
81-84	B+
78-80	B
75-77	B-
70-74	C+
65-69	C
60-64	C-
55-59	D+
50-55	D
≤49.9	F

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to engage with issues that are integral to the sociological study of law and society. Through the process of our collaborative engagement with legal theories, academic arguments, and case law, both student and teacher embark on a voyage of intellectual experimentation, dialogue and discovery. Thus, our objective is shared: the outcomes unpredictable. My ambition is to contribute to your development as ‘engaged citizens’ by deepening your liberal arts education during lectures, assigned readings, critical reflection, discussion, and through my evaluation of your own independent research and writing about the socio-political arguments that underpin the legal knowledge that shapes our contemporary social world.

RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Continued enrolment in this course indicates full agreement with the conditions and expectations outlined in this syllabus. Please bring any concerns or questions about the contents of this syllabus to my attention as soon as possible. This syllabus will be discussed, and opportunities for questions provided, during the first week of classes. I am also available during the term during office hours to clarify any questions regarding this syllabus.

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 (why you believe an error in grading has been made). The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. I am more than willing to formally or informally review grades assigned and have no particular desire to give anyone a bad grade. It should be noted that a reconsidered mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Technology Use

Please note that the use of laptops, tablets, cell phones or other electronic devices is **NOT** permitted during lectures. Students who require the use of electronic devices for academic accommodation purposes are exempt from this policy, but must provide documentation from Student Accessibility Services to the instructor. 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 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:

<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 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>

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**. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

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 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.