

**LWSO 203 Lec 01**  
**Introduction to Legal Knowledge**  
**Winter 2013**  
**Mon/Wed/Fri 10:00-10:50**  
**ST 141**

**Instructor:** MaryWyatt Sindlinger  
**Office Location:** SS1205  
**Office Phone:** Contact Information to be provided at first lecture  
**E-Mail:** wyatt@sindlinger.ca

**Office Hours:** By appointment

### **Course Description**

This course introduces students to the fundamental elements of the Canadian legal system. The course is divided into two parts. Part I provides an introduction to the nature of law, the historical evolution of the Canadian legal system, and legal personnel and the court structure. Part II covers the theories, concepts, structures, and processes of select aspects of Canadian public and private law including constitutional, criminal, contract, and tort law, and provides a brief introduction to aspects of global governance and legal institutions such as the United Nations the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, as well as international law concerning human rights, the use of force, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts between and within states.

### **Objectives of the Course**

The objective of the course is to provide students with fundamental legal knowledge in key areas of Canadian law and the legal system.

### **Textbooks and Readings:**

There is one required textbook which is available for purchase at the University of Calgary bookstore. Please use the edition of the textbook noted below. Readings not from the textbooks will be posted on the course Blackboard website under Course Documents.

Jessie Horner, *Canadian Law and the Canadian Legal System* (First Edition) (Pearson Education Canada Ltd., 2006)

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

*In-class mid-term Exam: 30%*

Monday February 25, 2013

The midterm will be a closed book multiple choice exam covering material up to February 15, 2013.

*Take home mid-term exam: 30%*

Handed out Friday March 22, 2013

Due Monday April 1, 2013

The take home midterm will be approximately 3 short answer questions (2-3 paragraphs per answer) covering material from Feb 25-March 22, 2013.

*Final Exam: Registrar Scheduled exam 40%*

The final exam will be a closed book multiple choice exam. The final exam will be cumulative (i.e. will cover all 13 weeks of the course) and will test students on the lectures and the readings.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your assignments directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS110; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes**

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

## **Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

## **Writing Skills Statement**

Your written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface

correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: [www.efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca).

## **Grading System**

The following grading system will be used:

	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.

## **Plagiarism**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre ([www.efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca)) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

## **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

## **Ethics**

**This course will not involve any research on human subjects.** Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/for-researchers/ethics>.

## **Internet and electronic communication device information**

Computers and other electronic devices may be used for class-related purposes. Talking on the phone, texting, or accessing websites unrelated to the course is not permitted, as it is distracting and disrespectful to the instructor and other students.

## **Policy on Recording of Lectures**

Classes may not be recorded without the permission of the instructor. Recording may be permitted for individual private study only, at the discretion of the instructor. For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed. Any other use of recordings constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion. For more information on recording of lectures please see: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

## **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points**

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see

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

## **"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

## **Student Representation**

There are four Arts reps, with the email addresses being [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), and [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca). Please contact them if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>.

## **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is the information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580 or send email to [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

## **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

The following topics and readings will be covered, time permitting.

### **Part I – Introduction to the Law and Legal Theory**

#### **Legal Theory**

**January 11 and 14**

Horner, chapter 1, pp 4-18

#### **Historical Evolution of the Canadian Legal System**

**January 16, 18 and 21**

Horner, chapter 2, pp. 37-68

#### **Courts, Judges and Lawyers**

**January 24 and 25**

Horner, chapter 8, pp. 238-252, 277-293, 304-318

#### **Sources of Law**

**January 28, 30 and Feb 1**

Horner, pp. 121-130, 161-171, and 174-192

### **Part II – Introduction to Areas of Canadian Law**

#### **Constitutional Law**

**February 4 and 6**

Horner, chapter 6, pp. 198-212

#### **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**

**February 8 and 11**

Horner, chapter 6, pp. 213-231

#### **International Human Rights**

**February 13 and 15**

Readings to be posted

**No classes Feb 18-22**

**Mid Term Exam – February 25 in class**

**Criminal Law - Substantive**  
**February 27 and March 1 and 4**

*Canadian Criminal Code*

**Criminal Law – Procedural**  
**March 6 and 8**

Horner, chapter 7, pp. 263-272

**Tort Law – Substantive**  
**March 11, 13, and 15**

Readings to be Posted

**Tort Law – Procedural**  
**March 18, 20 and 22**

Horner, chapter 7, pp. 254-263

**Take home Midterm Handed out March 22 and due April 1**

**Aboriginal Law**  
**March 25 and 27**

Readings to be posted

**No class March 29**

**Property Law**  
**April 1, 3 and 5**

Readings to be posted

**International Law**  
**April 8, 10 and 12**

Readings to be posted

**Course Review**  
**April 15**