

Law and Society (LWSO) 203 – 01
Introduction of Legal Knowledge
Winter 2016
MWF 10:00am – 10:50am
ENA 103

Instructor: Sharon Ramraj-Thompson

**Office
Location:** SS 941

E-Mail: sramraj@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: 9:30am-10:00am or by appointment

Course Description, Objectives, and Learning Outcomes

This course will introduce students to the fundamental elements of Canadian law and the Canadian legal system. Students will gain an appreciation of how law can be used as an instrument of social engineering and how it relates to the function and evolution of society.

The course is divided into three parts; each part will discuss fundamental legal concepts and then apply these concepts to particular topics of social significance.

- **Part 1** will discuss the role and origin of Canadian law including the role of law, the sources of Canadian law, and the interpretation of Canadian laws and statutes.
- **Part 2** will discuss the building blocks of the Canadian legal system, including the constitution, the court system (including dispute resolution mechanisms) and the legal profession.
- **Part 3** will discuss fundamental substantive law, including tort law, family law, and criminal law

Textbooks and Readings:

Boyd, Neil. *Canadian Law: An Introduction*. 6th Edition. (Nelson). The text is available for purchase at the University of Calgary Bookstore.

Internet links will be given for readings not in the textbook and posted on D2L.

Assignments and Evaluation

Course evaluation will be based on four examinations:

Mid-Term #1 - (30% of final grade). Monday, Feb 1, 2016, in class. The first mid-term will cover Part 1 of the course: 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 – (30% of final grade). Friday, March 4, 2016, in class. The second mid-term will cover Part 2 of the course: 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.

Mid-term#3 - (30% of final grade) Monday, March 29, 2016. The third mid-term will cover Tort Law and Criminal Law and Procedure: all material covered in class and the associated readings after Mid Term #2 up to and including the class before Mid Term #3. It is not cumulative. It will be a multiple-choice and / or short answer examination.

Quiz - (10% of final Grade) Monday April 11, 2016 on Family Law, Procedure, and Practice. It is not cumulative.

All examinations are closed-book.

**** 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

** Any changes to this schedule will be posted on D2L and announced in class**

Schedule	Topics	Readings (from Boyd)
PART ONE	Role and Origin of Law	
Mon Jan 11, 2016, Wed Jan 13, 2016	Introduction to the course, go over course outline	
Fri. Jan 15, 2016- Feb Jan 22, 2016	The Role of Law	Chapter 1 and any other material posted on D2L unless otherwise indicated
Mon. Jan 25, 2016 – Fri Jan 29, 2016	Sources of Canadian Law	Chapter 2 and any other material posted on D2L unless otherwise indicated
Mon Feb 1, 2016	Mid-term 1 on all material covered to date (30%)	
PART TWO	Building Blocks of the Canadian Legal System	
Wed. Feb 3, 2016 - Friday Feb 12, 2016	Constitution of Canada Canadian	Chapter 4 and any other material posted on D2L unless otherwise indicated

No classes Mon Feb 15, 2016 – Fri Feb 19, 2016 Mon Feb 22, 2016 – Fri Feb 26, 2016	Courts and alternative dispute resolution	Chapter 5 and any other material posted on D2L unless otherwise indicated
Mon Feb 29, 2016 and Wed March 2, 2016	The legal profession, ethics and the Canadian and Alberta bar associations	Chapter 6 and any other material posted on D2L unless otherwise indicated and links to be posted on D2L
Fri. March 4, 2016	Mid-term 2 on all material covered in Part two--Feb 3, 2016 to March 2, 2016 (30%)	
PART THREE Substantive Law		
Mon March 7, 2016– Wed March 16, 2016	Tort law	Chapter 7 and any other material posted on D2L unless otherwise indicated
Fri March 18, 2016 - Wed. March 23, 2016 * No class: Mon Mar 29, 2016	Criminal Law and Procedure	Chapter 10 and any other material posted on D2L unless otherwise indicated
Mon March 29, 2016	Mid-term on all material covered in Part Three -- March 7, 2016 – March 23, 2016 (30%)	
Wed March 30, 2016 – April 8, 2016	Family Law, Family Law Procedure, practicing in the Legal profession.	Chapter 8 and any other material posted on D2L unless otherwise indicated
Mon. April 11, 2016	In-class Quiz: Family Law, Practice, and Procedure (10%)	
Wed April 13, 2016	Class 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

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. 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 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/. 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