



LWSO 203(01) Introduction to Legal Knowledge			
Pre/Co-Requisites			
Instructor:	Dr. Ritesh Narayan	Lecture Location:	ENA 201
Phone:	403-383-4109	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 10:00 – 10:50
Email:	ritesh.narayan@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	SS 936	Office Hours:	Friday's 11:00-12:00
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.</p>		

Course Description

This course is intended as an introduction to legal knowledge in a Canadian context. We will be examining both the historical roots of law in Canada, some of its philosophical justifications, and the way it is reflected in institutions and legal practices. The course will also examine some of the challenges to Canadian law by its critics and skeptics on all ends of the ideological spectrum. The course will look at how the law is evolving by discussing several Supreme Court of Canada decisions. The course will be driven by weekly lectures introducing students to the topic, which will include slides, an audio-visual component, and ideally some discussion of the material.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This course will introduce the production of Canadian legal knowledge and practice to students through major texts and authors. It will be mainly text and case-law driven, meaning there will be minimal assignments but important weekly reading. We will also be applying these concepts to major controversies in the law, such as the nature of the Charter and renewed anxieties about toleration and cooperative federalism.

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Conceptualize what is meant by legal knowledge and practice in Canada
- Have a better understanding of some of the major theoretical and practical questions underpinning the nature of Canadian law
- Understand how these academic questions relate to very real issues of power and politics in society.

The hope is that the class will provide a broad survey of Canadian law as well as what its limitations and possibilities might be. Students will have a better sense of law and society in Canada by the conclusion.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

The standard textbook we will be using for this course is ***Canadian Law: An Introduction* by Dr. Neil Boyd. Ideally, students will use the Seventh Edition of this text.** The textbook will be supplemented by other course readings made available on D2L. Students are expected to come to class having completed the readings and being prepared to answer questions on them if prompted.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

WEEK 1	Week of January 9 th	Chapter 1	Introduction-What is Law? Read Boyd, Chapter 1: The Role of Law
WEEK 2	January 16 th	Chapter 2	The sources of Canadian Law
WEEK 3	January 23 rd	Chapter 3	How do judges interpret ambiguous statutes?
WEEK 4	January 30 th	Chapter 4	The constitution of Canada
WEEK 5	February 6 th	Chapter 5	Canada's Courts
WEEK 6	February 13 th	Chapter 6	The study of law, lawyers, and judges Case Study Assignment Due
WEEK 7	February 20 th	TERM BREAK-NO CLASSES	
WEEK 8	February 27 th	Chapter 7	Midterm Exam Chapters 1-6 Torts of intentions and negligence
WEEK 9	March 6 th	Chapter 7	Torts of intentions and negligence
WEEK 10	March 13 th	Chapter 8	The changing family and family law.
WEEK 11	March 20 th	Chapter 9	Administrative Law
WEEK 12	March 27 th	Chapter 10	Criminal law
WEEK 13	April 3 rd	Chapter 10	Criminal law
WEEK 14	April 10 th		Revision/Wrap up

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES/DAY
Assignment	20	February 17th
Midterm	40	February 27th
Final Exam	40	TBA
Total	100%	

Final Examination

Final Exam	Yes
Format	Registrar scheduled
Modality	Registrar scheduled exam in-person
Type	Multiple choice, long answer, short answer
Duration	120 minutes
Aids	N/A

Midterm Exam – written, in class. This will cover up to and including the lectures, we would have covered so far and associated reading materials. It will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answers.

This is not an open-book examination. No laptops or mobile devices are permitted.

Final Exam – written; this will be a registrar-scheduled final exam. This will cover all lecture content and associated reading materials covered after the midterm. It will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answers. This is not an open-book examination. No laptops or mobile devices are permitted.

Case Study Assignment

For this assignment, students are to do a case study on a provincial or federal government law where the notwithstanding clause was invoked. In 400-500 words students will briefly describe the law and the government's rationale for invoking the notwithstanding clause. Students will then provide their opinion of whether they feel the notwithstanding clause was used in a way that demonstrated good governance. That is, do you agree/disagree with the use of the clause in your case study? There is no wrong/right answer to this question. However, students are to support their answers with legal reasoning.

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.

Passing Grades

An overall passing grade must be achieved in order to pass the course.

Missed or Late Coursework

Late assignments will be accepted until one day after the due date with a 25 percent penalty.

Assignments after the one-day period assignments will not be accepted.

Technology Use

Students are at liberty to bring in laptops or other mobile devices to assist with note-taking and to access the internet, during lectures.

Students are not permitted to video record any of the lectures or examinations.

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

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.

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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/>.