

LWSO 313 (Research Methods in Law and Society)			
Pre/Co-Requisites	LWSO 201		
Instructor:	Dr. Qian Liu	Lecture Location:	ST 131
Phone:	403.22.6512	Lecture Days/Time:	TuTh 11am to 12.15 pm
Email:	qian.liu2@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	SS 948		
Instructor Email Policy	<p>Feel free to contact me over email at any time. 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

Welcome to LWSO 313: Research Methods in Law and Society. I am glad you are here! This course offers an in-depth introduction to law and society research methods, with a focus on qualitative research. You will learn the research process, including how to develop research questions, plan research projects, and conduct law and society empirical research. You will evaluate scholarly research in law and society, learn how to complete research ethics review applications and apply ethical considerations when conducting research. It is my hope that you will eventually become a better consumer of research by learning where and how to find information, and, more crucially, by learning how to critically assess information.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

The course is designed to provide you with hands-on experience with research methods commonly used by law and society scholars. The pedagogical orientation of the course is that you learn about research

methods through doing them. These skills will prepare you for career opportunities as researchers, policy analysts, and activists, among many others. This course aims to:

- stimulate your interest in law and society research;
- challenge you to interrogate the role that law plays in our everyday life;
- offer opportunities to develop skills required to equitably engage and include people from different backgrounds;
- help you develop practical skills of research design and understand each step you need to take in the whole process of research;
- enable you to become more mindful, reflective and skillful researchers;
- provide you with multiple opportunities to conduct mini research exercises, as well as read and critique others' work in groups;
- and develop your critical thinking skills through examining scholarly arguments and how they are articulated.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

Deborah van den Hoonaard & Lisa-jo van de Scott (2022) *Qualitative Research in Action: A Canadian Primer*. Fourth edition. Oxford University Press.

This text is available in hard copy, or in digital format (rental). If you rent the text, you will have immediate access, and it is less expensive than the price of the physical book, FYI.

Kristin Luker (2011) *Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences: Research in an Age of Info-glut*. Harvard University Press.


Again, this text is available in hard copy, or in digital format (kindle).

Several online journal articles (links or PDFs provided). Please note: you need to be logged in to U of C library for the links to work.









LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2l.ucalgary.ca)

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Part One	Basic Concepts in Law and Society Research Methods
<u>Week 1</u> September 6 Tues	<u>Welcome to LWSO 313: Introduction and Mutual Expectations</u> No readings
September 8 Thurs	<u>Introduction to Law and Society Research and Interdisciplinary Legal Scholarship</u>  "Introduction: Beyond Methods—Law and Society in Action," in Halliday, Simon, and Patrick D. Schmidt. <i>Conducting Law and Society Research Reflections on Methods and Practices</i> . Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009. (pp. 1-13). Available at: https://www-cambridge-org.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/core/books/conducting-law-and-society-research/2CAA08EA54E3EA5E223CCA535B1FE888

	<p>📖 Arthurs, Harry, and annie bunting. “Socio-Legal Scholarship in Canada: A Review of the Field.” <i>Journal of law and society</i> 41.4 (2014): 487–499. Available at: https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/doi/full/10.1111/j.1467-6478.2014.00682.x</p>
<u>Week 2</u> September 13 Tues	<p><u>What are “good” research methods? Why should you care? (I)</u> 📖 van den Hoonaard & van den Scott, Chapter 1: Introduction (pp. 1-11) 📖 Luker, Chapter 1: Salsa Dancing? Into the Social Sciences? (pp. 1-22)</p>
September 15 Thurs	<p><u>What are “good” research methods? Why should you care? (II)</u> 📖 Luker, Chapter 2: What’s It All About? (pp. 22-39) 📖 Wulff, Dan et al. “Kitchen Stories: A Review.” <i>Qualitative report</i> (2015). (Read pp. 1-7). Available at https://nsuworks.nova.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1713&context=tqr</p> <p>We will watch <i>Kitchen Stories</i>.</p>
September 15	<u>Last day to drop a class without financial penalty</u>
<u>Week 3</u> September 20 Tues	<p><u>From Research Interest to Research Questions in Law and Society</u> 📖 van den Hoonaard & van den Scott, Chapter 2: Asking Questions and Identifying Goals (pp. 12-32)</p> <p>📖 Scan through volumes for one law and society journal covering one year; identify the research questions of two to three articles you are most interested in, take notes and be prepared to discuss in class.</p>
September 22 Thurs	<p><u>The Ethics of Qualitative Research (I)</u> We will <i>not</i> meet in class today. Please use the time to work on your CORE. (10 %)</p>
<u>September 25</u>	Assignment due: please submit your CORE Completion Certificate by September 25, 2022, 11:59 pm.
<u>Week 4</u> September 27 Tues	<p><u>The Ethics of Qualitative Research (II) – What are the ethical responsibilities of qualitative researchers?</u> 📖 van den Hoonaard & van den Scott, Chapter 4: Ethics on the Ground: A Moral Compass (pp.56-74) Guest speaker: Professor Jenny Godley, Chair, Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board.</p>
September 29 Thurs	<p><u>Developing Research Methods and Strategies</u> 📖 van den Hoonaard & van den Scott, Chapter 3: Strategies for Designing Research (pp. 34-53) 📖 Luker, Chapter 6: On Sampling, Operationalization, and Generalization (pp. 99-128)</p>
<u>Week 5</u> October 4 Tues	<p><u>Test One</u> The first test will cover what we have studied so far. This test will form 20% of your total grade.</p>

October 6 Thurs	<u>Conducting Legal Research & Literature Review</u>  Luker, Chapter 5: Reviewing the Literature (pp.76-98). Guest speaker: Kim Clarke, Director – Law Library, Bennett Jones Law Library, Doucette Library.
	<u>Thanksgiving Day university closed on Monday, October 10</u>
Part Two	Listening to People
<u>Week 6</u> October 11 Tues	<u>Narrowing Down Your Research Question & Identifying Literature</u> No readings In-class activity: meeting and planning with your group members
October 13 Thurs	<u>Participant Observation (I)</u>  van den Hoonaard & van den Scott, Chapter 5: Observing Social Life through Field Research pp. 75-99  Luker, Participant Observation, 155-67
<u>Week 7</u> October 18 Tues	<u>Participant Observation (II)</u> No readings An Exercise for participant observation (and field notes). Assignment due on October 19 at noon on D2L.
October 20 Thurs	<u>In-Depth Interviews (I)</u>  van den Hoonaard & van den Scott, Chapter 6: In-Depth Interviewing, pp. 105-127  Luker, Interviews, pp. 167-180
<u>Week 8</u> October 25 Tues	<u>In-Depth Interviews (II) & Focus Groups</u>  van den Hoonaard & van den Scott, Chapter 7: Focus Groups, pp. 129-147;  Luker, Focus Groups, pp. 180-187
October 27 Thurs	<u>Interview and Focus Groups Exercise</u> No readings In-class group activity
<u>Week 9</u> November 1 Tues	<u>Data Analysis & Writing Up</u>  van den Hoonaard & van den Scott, Chapter 9: Trust the Process: Analyzing Qualitative Data, pp.173-194.
November 3 Thurs	<u>Test Two</u> Test Two will focus on material covered from Weeks 6-9. It will be worth 25% of your total grade.
November 6-12	<u>Reading Break</u>

Part Three	Law and Society Research in Action: Group Work and Presentations
<u>Week 10</u> November 15 Tues	Getting Ready for your Group Presentation
November 17 Thurs	Legal Consciousness & Legal Culture
<u>Week 11</u> November 22 Tues	Legal Pluralism, Indigeneity, and Non-state Law
November 24 Thurs	Access to Justice & Dispute Resolution
<u>Week 12</u> November 29 Tues	Gender, Sexualities, and the Law
December 1 Thurs	Law and Emotion
<u>Week 13</u> December 6 Tues	Reflection
December 7 Wed	<u>End of Classes; last day to withdraw from a course</u>

Acknowledgements. I would like to thank Dr. Ted McCoy (UofC), Dr. Ke Li (CUNY), Dr. Feng Xu (UVic), and Dr. Lynette Chua (NUS; Yale-NUS) for sharing their research methods course outlines to inform this course design. I am also grateful to Dr. Sida Liu (UofT) for suggestions and content I have incorporated into this syllabus.

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

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.

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES/DAY	REQUIREMENTS
TCPS 2: CORE (Course on Research Ethics)	10%	September 25, 2022, 11:59 pm	You are required to complete the Tri-Council “Course on Research Ethics and Training” (TCPS 2: CORE) and submit your Completion Certificate by September 25, 2022, 11:59 pm on D2L. The entire training should take no more than 3 hours to complete. You will be able to go through the training modules at your own pace.
Test 1	20%	October 4 in class	Test One will cover what we study together from Weeks 1-4. It is a closed book exam, meaning that you cannot use any sources

			during your exam. You are not permitted to collaborate with others in any way during the exam.
Your Participant Observation Notes	5%	October 19 at noon	Write a one-pager to document and reflect on your exercise. See handouts for more information.
Test 2	25%	November 3 in class	Test Two will focus on material covered from Weeks 5-9. It is a closed book exam, meaning that you cannot use any sources during your exam. You are not permitted to collaborate with others in any way during the exam.
Group Presentations and Reports	15%	Group presentation in class (5%)—graded by non-presenting groups and your instructor. Final group reports are due <u>two weeks</u> after the date your group presented in class (10%).	Slides or speaking notes due <u>three days</u> prior to the scheduled group presentation date. Group presentation (each group can have 1-5 presenters): 15 minutes each group. Feedback will be provided by the instructor and your classmates. Your group will then incorporate the comments into your final report. See handouts for more information.
Self-reflection for Your Group Work	5%	Your self-reflection is due <u>two weeks</u> after the date your group presented in class.	Your self-reflection will discuss <u>your</u> contribution to the group project as an individual, your main takeaway from this exercise, and how what we have learned in this course helps you identify and narrow down research questions and conduct literature review.
Your Interview Exercise Report	20%	Your self-reflection is due <u>three weeks</u> after the date your group presented in class.	This will be based on your group work. See handouts for more information.
Total	100%		

Final Exam Information

No Final Exam

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.

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.

Student committing academic misconduct during the final exam will not receive a passing grade for the course.

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/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

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/>.