



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2020

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE TITLE: Research Methods in Law and Society			
Course Number	LWSO 313		
Pre/Co-Requisites	LWSO 201		
Instructor Name	Dr. Dawn Rault	Email	dawn.rault@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	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 <i>two business days</i> . <i>I do not answer emails over the weekend</i> . 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.		
Office Location	Virtual	Office Hours	Please email me/Carieta any questions you may have, and if we cannot adequately answer your query over email, we can arrange a zoom virtual meeting.
Telephone No.	403-220-6505		
TA Name	Carieta Thomas	TA Email	carieta.thomas1@ucalgary.ca
TA Office Location	Virtual	TA Office Hours	Thursday 1-2+ by appointment
Class Dates	Narrated PPT lectures will now to posted weekly on D2L		

Class Times	Online delivery-Narrated PPT notes will be posted weekly
Class Location	Online via D2L

Course Description

How do we know what we know about the social and legal world?

In this course, we will tackle this question together by examining how socio-legal scholars observe, analyze, and create knowledge about various social and legal institutions and phenomenon. We will introduce you to qualitative and quantitative research methods commonly used by socio-legal scholars, and will invite you to think critically about how different methods lead to different kinds of knowledge production. We will pay special attention to how research methods have historically privileged some groups, while excluding, marginalizing, and disparaging others, and how methods today may be used to both challenge and reproduce inequalities. The University requires that in order to take this course, you must have taken LWSO 201.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to provide you with as much hands-on experience with research methods commonly used by socio-legal scholars. In this course, we will be:

- (1) learning about and practicing qualitative and quantitative methods,
- (2) exploring how science is produced and what ideas or conditions influence science,
- (3) critically thinking about existing scientific research methods,
- (4) practicing research and writing methods including legal research basics, and legal analysis,
- (5) developing practical skills of research design,
- (6) critically appraising existing research,
- (7) focusing on ethics of research, critical epistemologies and methodologies in this course.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

Readings are assigned from two sources:

- Alan Bryman, Edward Bell. 2019. *Social Research Methods*, Fifth Canadian Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press. (Available at the Campus Bookstore)
- Several online journal articles (links and/or pdfs provided on D2L). *Please note: You need to be logged in to U of C library for the links to work*

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

	LWSO 313 Schedule *Schedule subject to change, additional readings will be assigned
Week 1 Jan 13, 15, 17	Introduction to the course/Research orientations Chapter 1
Week 2 Jan 20, 22, 24	Research Design Chapter 2
Week 3 Jan 27, 29, 31	Research Ethics Chapter 3 Presentation Monday, January 27th (Re: Case Brief Assignment)
Week 4 Feb 3, 5, 7	Quantitative Research Chapters 4 + 5
Week 5 Feb 10, 12, 14	Qualitative Research Chapters 9 + 10
	Reading Break Feb 16-22, No Class
Week 6 Feb 24, 26, 28	Qualitative Research Continued Chapter 11 Midterm Exam Feb 28 (in class)
Week 7 March 2, 4, 6	Sampling Chapter 7
Week 8 March 9, 11, 13	Units of Analysis *Case Brief/Annotated Bib. Major Assignment Due March 9*
Week 9 March 16, 18, 20	Quantitative Analysis Chapter 8
Week 10 March 23, 25, 27	Qualitative Analysis Chapter 13
Week 11 March 30, April 1 + 3	Legal Research-Part 1 Readings posted on D2L Article Critique Due March 30th
Week 12 April 6, 8 No Class April 10	Legal Research-Part 2 Readings posted on D2L
Week 13 April 15 No Class April 13	Final Exam Review April 15

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

**Given the situation, we will attempt to be as flexible as possible with submission deadlines. Please connect if you require an extension beyond 3 days after the assignment is due.*

Midterm Exam-20% (Feb 28)

- The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions, and it will be administered during class time (50 minutes).

Final Exam-25%

- The final exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions, and a partial article critique.
- The final exam will be going ahead as planned but completed on D2L. You will have 2 hours to complete your final exam, but it can be written any time during a 24-hour period. This means that the 24 window to write your exam will open on Saturday, April 25th at 8:30 am, and close on Sunday, April 26th at 8:30 am. You can write your 2-hour timed exam any time during that 24-hour period. Once you open the exam, the clock will begin for your 2-hour exam. If you are unable to write during that 24-hour window, please let me know so we can make alternate arrangements.
- **Students with accommodations**-If your accommodation only requires additional time, I can easily accommodate that on my end. If your accommodation requires additional supports (for example, adaptive technology), you will need to coordinate your exam through SAS.

Article Critique-20% (due March 30)

- You are asked to critique a qualitative OR quantitative article that will be posted on D2L. The critique template is also posted on D2L. You may work individually or with a partner, but you will receive the same grade. Your critique can now be submitted through D2L dropbox. I will provide some addition direction on how to complete the assignment on D2L.

Major Assignment (Case Brief + Annotated Bibliography)-35% (due March 9)

- Details on the major assignment can be found on D2L. You may work individually or with a partner, but you will receive the same grade.

In-Class Activities- I have moved these activities onto D2L. I will post the activity, and the answer key so you can self-grade.

- The final exam will be scheduled by the office of the registrar.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale. Final grades will be rounded to the next letter grade that are within 0.5%, no exceptions.

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.

Grade Reappraisal

Within one week of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to me explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. I will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a *re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.*

Technology Use

Please be respectful to those around you when using technology. To minimize disruption in the classroom, laptops are permitted in the classroom BUT ONLY to take notes and to connect with class materials. **(Permission to use LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES may be withdrawn if they are used for anything else other than class purposes).**

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 can provide the instructor with a

stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

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 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.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. 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. Lectures may NOT be recorded without explicit consent by the instructor.

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.html>

Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (midterm exam or assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide to defer the midterm exam or assignment. For information on possible forms of

documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

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 can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

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://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/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).

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.pdf>

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that 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 support 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 Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca.

Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca>.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

<https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points>

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.