

**LWSO 591**  
**Law as a Social and Political Organism**  
**Winter 2013**  
**Block Week**  
**January 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7<sup>th</sup> 2013**  
**9:00 to 16:30**

**ST 057**

**Instructor:** Linda McKay-Panos  
**Office Location:** 2350 Murray Fraser Hall  
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**Office Hours:** By appointment only

**Additional Information**

n/a

**Course Description**

This course is the capstone course for the Law and Society Program. Students will be exposed to various aspects of law (i.e., political lobbying, law-making, law enforcement, judicial interpretations and legal reform movements) in Canadian society. A variety of guest speakers/seminar leaders (e.g., a judge, a journalist, a public trustee, an entrepreneur, a mediator, politician, etc.) will bring their expertise into the classroom. They will introduce students to an array of social and political issues that influence the construction, execution and/or interpretation of law in Canada. Each day, the students will complete their journaling assignment for the speakers for that day, handing it into the instructor (via Blackboard) by midnight of that day. The readings will either be posted online on Blackboard or be handed out in an earlier class. Students will thus be able to engage the guest speaker in his/her area of interest. In every class, each student will be expected to have prepared 2-3 questions in response to each guest's reading materials and presentation. The students will write an analytical term paper that has been drawn from reflections in their journal entries and from the materials and presentations of the guest speakers.

**Objectives of the Course**

The aim of this course is to create an environment in which students can explore the multi-dimensional nature of law in Canada. As a senior level course, it will show the broad and often subtle manner in which law both forms us as individuals and as a people and the manner in which we influence the creation, execution, interpretation and revision of law on an everyday basis. Students should gain a nuanced understanding their own and others' membership in Canada's liberal democratic community.

**Textbooks and Readings:**

Blackboard readings, readings handed out in class and audio-visual materials.

**Assignments and Evaluation**

**Journaling assignments - 40% - five total – ONE DUE EACH DAY** (average length: 3-4 typed pages, double-spaced)

Each student will keep a journal which documents his/her reactions to and reflections on the weekly readings and seminar presentations. Entries will be handed in on or before midnight via Blackboard.

FORMAT: Each journal entry will be in two parts: (i) response to the speaker's readings, prior to class and; (ii) reflections on the readings and seminar, after class. Overall, the daily journaling exercise is expected to be strongly analytical and should be referenced to other course material and presentations. Summaries of articles are not acceptable responses. It is expected that as senior level students, you will bring all the years of your post secondary learning and experience to your reflections and participation in this course.

**Class participation –15% 2 parts:**

10% - Each student will be responsible for taking part in the class discussion in response to the speaker (i.e., s/he should have 2-3 questions prepared to initiate the seminar discussion). A copy of the questions should be submitted to me at the beginning of each speaker's discussion.

5% - The final afternoon of discussion will be an overview of the course and students will be responsible for pointing out the variety of themes and issues, which have emerged during the intensive week of guest seminars. They should be able to discuss them articulately and respectfully with their peers. Students can begin brain-storming about possible large paper topics (which are due later in the term) during this session. More generally, students are expected to speak in class. Students will be assessed on their demonstrated knowledge of the preparatory materials; their analysis of the materials; their capacity to listen to their peers and to respond appropriately; and their contribution to a welcoming and inquisitive seminar environment.

**Term paper - 45%** - DUE 8 February 2013 -- (5% paper topic and preliminary outline due January 18, 2013; 40 % final paper) Each student will write a 15-20 page paper which draws on the course material and his/her journal entries over the term. The student's topic MUST receive approval from the instructor. (This will be due either in person or via email.) A paper which is handed in without pre-approval of the instructor will not be marked and will receive a failing grade. As such, the student must submit a paper outline to the instructor prior to commencing his or her writing the essay. The student will attach the relevant journal material that influenced his/her topic choice when handing in his/her paper.

STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT ALL ASSIGNMENTS TO RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE.

Given the nature of the class and materials, students must attend all classes during the block week course. Please contact the instructor immediately if attendance poses a problem.

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

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS102. 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: NO**

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 may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

### **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>.

### **Grading System**

	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

## Schedule of Lectures and Readings

A schedule of guest seminars will be posted on Blackboard. It will be in an Excel document under Course Information.

**It is extremely important that students refer to Blackboard on an ongoing basis, as reading assignments and guest lecture appearances may well be adjusted several times during the course depending on the schedules and availability of various individuals.**

## Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e., surveys, interviews, observation) as a 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>

## 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 if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

## Internet and electronic communication device information

Students may use laptops in class, so long as they are not writing emails, surfing the net and distracting themselves and fellow seminar participants from the class materials and discussion. Also, the student should make every effort to ensure that the laptop does

not obscure his/her face or other individuals' views of one another across the table. Using a laptop is a privilege and trust is being placed in the student that s/he will abide by these rules. These guidelines will be strictly enforced. If an individual undertakes disruptive activities related to his/her laptop (or other electronic device) use, s/he will lose the privilege of using his/her laptop (or other device) during class.

### **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>

### **Academic Accommodation Policy**

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>

### **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**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

### **Student Representation**

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, 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 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**

- For program advising and student information, contact the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC). Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580 or email [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.