

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Department of Sociology

Sociology 429 L01
SOCIOLOGY OF LAW
Fall 2010

Instructor: M. Belle-McQuillan

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Prerequisites: Sociology 327 and 313; or consent of the Department

Class Times: MWF 9:00-9:50, SH 157

Office Hours: M/W 1:00-2:30

or email for appointment

Course Description

This course will introduce the student to a sociological perspective on the law. To this end, the student will develop a theoretical understanding of this area by examining the origin of law, the process by which laws are made, and the social functions of law. To put theory into context, we will be critically examining selected laws and current legal issues. In essence, the course is designed to get the student to think critically about the role of law in shaping everyday life. As such, we will analyse the social factors that produce particular legislation and address the social implications of that legislation.

Required Readings

A Custom Course Material package is available from the University Bookstore.

Selected readings from electronic journals.

Selected Internet readings.

Selected course material found on the BB course site.

Course Requirements

Your grade in the course will be determined in the following way:

Midterm.....	Oct. 15	25%
Term Paper.....	variable dates	20%
In-class exercises/participation.....		15%
Final Exam.....	Dec. exam period	40%

Please read carefully

Both the mid-term and the final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer format questions. Students are therefore responsible for all components of the course (including lectures, guest speaker presentations, class exercises, assigned readings, videos, etc.). The course is set up to facilitate discussion on a number of topics and active participation is encouraged. Students are therefore expected to come to class having read the assigned readings. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend class, please consult with your colleagues in order to "catch up" on the material you have missed, as you will remain responsible for the material which was covered in class. There will be no provisions for make-up exams or other work for the purpose of improving grades. Be sure that you note the date of the mid-term and the final exam (during the Dec. exam period, Dec.13th-22nd) **before** you make any travel plans. Please be sure to read the administrative notices which follow for information regarding a missed exam and other issues of importance.

In-class exercises/participation

There will be a number of in-class exercises related to the major topics throughout the term. In addition, a Blackboard (BB)-based group exercise will take place in November.

Term Paper

Each of you is responsible for writing an essay which focusses on a major theme developed throughout the course. These papers are due on different dates throughout the term dependent upon the topic. The suggested topics for the term paper, along with additional guidelines, the specific due dates, information about the late penalty, etc will be distributed in the second week of class.

Administrative Information:

Emergency evacuations:

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the Education Block Food Court, with an alternate meeting point being the Social Sciences Food Court

Deferrals:

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay 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 physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus 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 Sociology Department. Please note that requests to defer a final examination or to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U. of C. Calendar. You can find the forms you need online at:

Deferred Final Exam Application:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Faculty of Arts Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre. Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions. To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

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 Departmental 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: Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offenses. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct. .
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor’s office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor’s office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

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.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

Academic Accommodation: Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student’s responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

Letter Grade Assignment:

A letter-grade will be assigned to each student at the end of the semester and submitted to the registrar. Your letter-grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+ 95–100	B+ 80-84	C+ 67-69	D+ 54-58
A 90-94	B 75-79	C 63-66	D 50-53
A- 85-89	B- 70-74	C- 59-62	F 49 or less

Note: The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades:

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor’s office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor’s office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.

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

Major Topics

Note: while it may appear to be an overwhelming amount of reading that is required for some topic areas, you will actually find that some of these readings are only a few pages in length -- in some cases, a one-column newspaper story. A detailed reading list, which identifies the source of all material listed below and denotes where the material can be located, is available on the course BB site.

Date	Major topics
Sept. 13-27	<p>Introduction: Social Context of Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roberts, David. "The law is an ass" • Fradsham, Judge Allan A. "View from the bench" • Freeman, Michael. "Law and Sociology" • Des Rosiers, Nathalie. "Is it possible to tame ...?" • Bogart, W. A. "Chapter 1 So Decried, So Demanded" • Bowal, Peter. "Ten Differences" • Milovanovic, Dragan. "Introduction" • Boyd, Marion. "Section 1: Introduction and Structure"
Sept. 29	<p>Law Library Instruction Room IC-A (2nd floor MacKimmie Library Block)</p>
Oct. 1-6	<p>Evolution of Legal Theory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boyd, Neil. "Individual Perspectives on the Law"
Oct. 8-13	<p>Law-making (Part one)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vago, Steven and Adie Nelson. "Lawmaking" • Hellsten, S. K. "Rationalising Circumcision: ..."
Oct. 15	<i>MIDTERM EXAM</i>

Oct. 18-29	<p>Law-making (Part two)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bredemeier, Harry C. “Law as an Integrative Mechanism” • Potter, Simon V. “Judging the Judiciary: ... ” • Knopff, Rainer and F. L. Morton. “Ardour in the court ...” • MacKay, A. Wayne. “The Legislature, ...” • Hogg, Peter W. and Alison A. Bushell. “The Charter ...” • Smith, Miriam. “Social Movements and ...”
Nov. 1-10	<p>Law and Social Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vago, Steven. “Law and Social Control”
Nov. 12	<p>Reading days (no class)</p>
Nov. 15-19	<p>Law and Social Control (con’t)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ . “Cannabis News”
Nov. 22-Dec. 1	<p>Law and Social Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sinclair, Andrew. “Chapter 8 The Turncoat Congress” • Bogart, W. A. “Chapter 6 Smoking ...”
Dec.3-Dec.10	<p>Individual versus Societal Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McTeer, Maureen A. “A Role for Law in Matters of Morality” • Assisted Human Reproduction Act. Select sections • McGinn, Dave. “Woman who gave birth ...” • “On the hook, in the end” • “‘Octomom’ spawns legislation ...” • “IVF treatment ...”

Note: These dates are tentative and subject to change.