UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Spring 2021
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Sociology
Department of Sociology Website: https://soci.ucalgary.ca/

COURSE TITLE: THE SOCIOLOGY OF LAW			
Course Number	**SOCI 429**		
Pre/Co-Requisites	**SOCI 327 and 313**		
Instructor Name	**Carieta Thomas**	**Email**	**carieta.thomas1@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. 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. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for a meeting, 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 during my office hours.		
Office Location	N/A	**Office Hours**	**Monday/Wednesday 1:00pm- 2:00pm or by appointment**
Telephone No.	N/A		
TA Name	**Chene Redwood**	**TA Email**	**chene.redwood@ucalgary.ca**
TA Office Location	N/A	**TA Office Hours**	**Email for appointment**
Class Dates	**Wednesday May 5th, 2021 – Wednesday June 16th, 2021**		
Class Times	**Monday/Wednesday 9:00 am to 11:45 am**		
Class Location	**Online**		

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of the relationship between law and society from a sociological perspective. It asks students to view law as a social phenomenon that is shaped by socioeconomic and political contexts. Students will be asked to think critically about the role of law in society and will develop a sociological understanding of law and legal institutions. The course will examine the ways in which the law impacts or responds to social issues and its role in bringing about social change. We will sometimes look at laws, legal issues, and cases to understand the relationship between law and social inequality, social movements, and the ever-changing world.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- Understand and apply sociological perspectives to the law
- Reflect on how those in different social statuses experience law
- Explore how legal systems and institutions reflect the values of the society
- Explore law's relationship to social change
- Critically evaluate major debates in the discipline
- Communicate sociological knowledge in a concise and clear manner in writing or discussions

Course Format

This course will be synchronous via Zoom. Unless otherwise instructed, we will meet via Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:00am to 11:45am for lectures and in-class activities/discussions. Students are strongly encouraged, but not required, to turn on their video in order to foster engagement and participation.

Learning Resources

There is no required textbook for this course. Required readings or podcasts for each week will either be directly posted to D2L or a link will be provided on D2L (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

* Schedule is subject to change and revision at the discretion of the instructor.

Date	Topic and Required Readings
May 5	**Introduction to Sociology of Law**
May 10	**Law and Society Theory** Seron, C., & Silbey, S. S. (2008). Profession, Science, and Culture: An Emergent Canon of Law and Society Research. In A. Sarat (Ed.), *The Blackwell Companion to Law and Society* (pp. 30-59). Blackwell Publishing. Otis, G. (2018). Individual Choice of Law for Indigenous People in Canada: Reconciling Legal Pluralism with Human Rights. *UC Irvine L. Rev*, *8*.
May 12	**Legal Pluralism** Esau, A. (2008). Living by Different Law: Legal Pluralism, Freedom of Religion, and Illiberal Religious Groups. In R. Moon (Ed.), *Law and Religious Pluralism in Canada* (pp. 110-139). UBC Press. Bill 21 (2019, chapter 12) An Act respecting the laicity of the State https://www.canlii.org/en/qc/laws/astat/sq-2019-c-12/latest/sq-2019-c-12.pdf An Act respecting the laicity of the State, SQ 2019, c 12, <https://canlii.ca/t/53mgl> retrieved on 2021-04-25 **Listen to "Litigating Laïcité: The Bill 21 Challenge" on McGill Law Journal** https://lawjournal.mcgill.ca/podcasts/page/2 **REFLECTION PAPER 1 DUE MAY 13 by 11:59pm**
May 17	**Inequality** Jiwani, Y. (2002). The Criminalization of "Race", the Racialization of Crime. In W. Chan & K. Mirchandani (Eds.), *Crimes of Colour: Racialization and the Criminal Justice System in Canada* (pp. 68-86). Broadview Press. Ives, D. E. (2004). Inequality, crime and sentencing: Borde, hamilton and the relevance of social disadvantage in canadian sentencing law. *Queen's Law Journal*, *30*(1), 114-155. Istvanffy, J. (2011). *Gladue Primer*. (pages 1-17)
May 19th	**Inequality** Anand, R. (2014). Real Change? Reflections on Employment Equity's Last Thirty Years. In C. Agocs (Ed.), *Employment Equity in Canada: The Legacy of the Abella Report* (pp. 51-70). University of Toronto Press. Rioux, M., & Patton, L. (2014). Employment Equity and Disability: Moving Forward to Achieve Employment Integration and Fulfil Promises of Inclusion and Participation. In C. Agocs (Ed.), *Employment Equity in Canada: The Legacy of the Abella Report* (pp. 133-155). University of Toronto Press.
May 24th	**NO CLASS** **REFLECTION PAPER 2 DUE MAY 25 by 11:59pm**
May 26th	**Policing**

	Wood, J. D. (2015). Police and Policing. In A. Sarat & P. Ewick (Eds.), *The Handbook of Law and Society* (pp. 183-196). John Wiley and Sons, Inc. Robertson, K., Khoo, C., & Song, Y. (2020). *To Surveil and Predict: A Human Rights Analysis of Algorithmic Policing in Canada*. https://citizenlab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/AIPolicing_factualfindings_v5.pdf **Listen to "Algorithmic Policing in Canada: The Future Is Here, But At What Cost?" on McGill Law Journal Podcasts** https://lawjournal.mcgill.ca/podcasts/
May 31st	**The Jury System** Hogg, K. (2021). Seeing Justice Done: Increasing Indigenous Representation on Canadian Juries. *Appeal: Review of Current Law and Law Reform 26*, 51-70. Craft, W. (2018). *How did Curtis Flowers end up with a nearly all-white jury?* https://features.apmreports.org/in-the-dark/curtis-flowers-trial-six-jury-selection/ **Listen to Episode 7 on In the Dark Podcast** **Title: *The Trials of Curtis Flowers*** **Available here:** https://features.apmreports.org/in-the-dark/season-two/ **Also available on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, Spotify, Google Podcasts, NPR One** **Read Mock Jury Selection Activity Instructions and Documents** More information on the activity will be provided before the class
June 2nd	**Alternative Dispute Resolution and Restorative Justice** Tomporowski, B., Buck, M., Bargen, C., & Binder, V. (2011). Reflections on the past, present, and future of restorative justice in canada. *Alberta Law Review*, *48*(4), 815-830. Maurutto, P., & Hannah-Moffat, K. (2016). Aboriginal knowledges in specialized courts: Emerging practices in gladue courts. Canadian Journal of Law & Society, 31(3), 451-472. **POSITION PAPER DUE BY 11:59pm**
June 7th	**Social Movements** Levitsky, S. R. (2015). Law and Social Movements: Old Debates and New Directions. In *The Handbook of Law and Society* (pp. 382-398). John Wiley and Sons, Inc. **RESEARCH PROJECT TOPIC AND THESIS DUE by 11:59pm**
June 9th	**Technology and the Law** Ohm, P. (2016). We couldn't kill the internet if we tried. *Harvard Law Review Forum*, *130*(2), 79-85. Gasser, U. (2016). Recoding privacy law: Reflections on the future relationship among law, technology, and privacy. *Harvard Law Review Forum*, *130*(2), 61-70. **Listen to "AI Governance: A Global Problem" on McGill Law Journal Podcasts**

	https://lawjournal.mcgill.ca/podcasts/
June 14th	**Legal Personality of the Environment** Stone, C. D. (1972). Should trees have standing--toward legal rights for natural objects. Southern California Law Review, 45(2), 450-501. **Listen to Parts I and II "Legal Personality of the Environment" on McGill Law Journal Podcasts** https://lawjournal.mcgill.ca/podcasts/page/4
June 16th	**Lawyers and the Legal Profession** Wernikowski, N. S. (2017). Examining the exam: Use of the lsat in canadian law school admissions procedures. *Saskatchewan Law Review*, *80*(1), 289-310. Guest Speaker(s) TBA
FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT DUE JUNE 23 by 11:59pm	

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

Assessment of learning outcomes will take place through a variety of methods. Below are the assessment components and required assignments and the percent value of each assignment for determining your course grade.

Assessment Component/Assignment	Due Date	Weight
Reflection Papers (2)	Reflection 1: May 13 by 11:59pm Reflection 2: May 25 by 11:59pm	30%
Position Paper	June 2 by 11:59pm	30%
Research Project Topic & Thesis	June 7 by 11:59pm	5%
Final Research Project	June 23 by 11:59pm	35%

Reflection Papers (2 worth 15% each):

Over the course of the semester, you will write **2 brief reflection papers (maximum 3 double-spaced pages)** responding to provided prompts/questions based on the readings and/or in-class activities. A good reflection paper is not merely a summary of the readings or activity, but

rather a commentary on/analysis of the assumptions, data, conclusions, policy implications, methodological approach, connection to other course readings, etc.

Due Dates:

Reflection 1   **May 13th by 11:59pm**

Reflection 2   **May 25th by 11:59pm**

Position Paper (30%):

Choose a controversial legal topic currently being debated or discussed in the news and argue a position on that issue. You should relate your topic to sociological issues and/or theories. This is a course in sociology of law, not a law course. So, a strong paper will show reflection on the sociological implications of your topic. This assignment will be most useful if your topic is somehow connected to the topic you choose for your final research project.

Review at least **4 academic sources and 2 non-academic sources** (ex. newspapers, documentaries, etc.) on your topic and use them in your paper. Include a reference page at the end of your paper.

Your paper should be a maximum of **5 double-spaced pages** (not including references). Further instructions, suggestions, and grading criteria will be provided.

DUE JUNE 2nd by 11:59pm

Research Project Topic & Thesis (5%):

Students will submit a short summary of the topic of their final research project along with a thesis statement. This will require that you decide on the area of social inequality and its relationship to the law. In order to write a thesis statement, you will need to decide on some reasons for reaching the conclusion that the law is successful/unsuccessful. This assignment ensures that students begin preparing their final project well in advance and also provides an early opportunity for feedback.

DUE JUNE 7th by 11:59pm

Final Research Project (35%):

Portfolio on Social Inequality & Law

You will prepare a collection of research that documents the relationship between one social status (e.g., gender, race, class, disability, or sexual orientation) and law. The particular interaction between status and law to be studied is up to you. For example, you may prepare a portfolio that provides an overview of the current research on the origins of hate crime law. Or you may look at the experiences of women in law school or law firms. The portfolio may include

statistics from official sources (e.g., social service agencies, the Civil Rights Commission), empirical studies on the issue, photographs or videos that document the issue being studied.

The portfolio must include:

a.) 1-2 pages description of the status being studied and the connection between the social status and a particular area of law;

b.) 1-2 pages sociological analysis using a theory/theorist discussed in class;

c.) A 5-6 page summary of at least 7-8 journal articles exploring this connection (include a reference page at the end of the portfolio); and

You may also use other evidence of the connection between social status and the law (e.g., recent news articles, videos of a news show segment on this issue, documentary).

The paper should be **8-10 double spaced pages** (not including reference list). Further information, instructions, and guidance will be provided.

DUE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23 by 11:59pm

Note on Collaboration

All assignments are to be completed and submitted individually. Students are allowed to discuss topics, approaches to papers, and share suggestions of where to find relevant material. Time may be provided in class for students to discuss paper topics. However, your assignment should be original done individually. See below for information on plagiarism.

Final Exam Information

There will be no final exam for this course.

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.

Absences and Deferrals

Students who miss submission deadlines for assignments should inform the instructor as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, the instructor may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

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/deferral-of-term-work-2020.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.

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date an assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor 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.

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.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect. When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/ .

We will collaboratively create discussion guidelines/norms as a class. These will be posted on D2L.

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 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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.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.

Recording of Lectures

The audio or video recording of lectures and taking screengrabs of PowerPoint slides during the lecture are not permitted without explicit authorization. The non-authorized media recording of lectures is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and may result in discipline in accordance with the Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure.

Sharing of Lecture Notes and Exam Questions

Publicly sharing lectures notes and exam questions on 3rd party sites such as OneClass, StudyBlue, Quizlet, Course Hero, etc. is not permitted. If you wish to use these helpful studying

tools, make sure you adjust your privacy settings accordingly. Any violations are subject to investigation under the UofC Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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

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

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

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.