



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2021

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

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

COURSE TITLE: Sociology of Law			
Course Number	SOCI 429		
Pre/Co-Requisites	Sociology 327 and 313		
Instructor Name	Martine Dennie	Email	martine.dennie@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Feel free to contact me over email. Please include your full name and the course number. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first.		
Office Location	N/A	Office Hours	By appointment: Please email the instructor
Class Dates	Asynchronous		
Class Times	Asynchronous		
Class Location	Online		

Course Description

The sociology of law studies law and legal institutions as social relationships. This course will introduce students to the study of law from a sociological perspective, with particular attention to understanding major socio-legal theories. Topics include exploring law as a mode of social control, social change, and how intersecting factors such as race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, age, and ability shape the law and legal institutions.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- Describe the emergence of socio-legal research and conceptions of law
- Identify and apply the theoretical foundations and historical development of law
- Discuss the changing nature and functions of Canadian law
- Explain how intersectionality shapes Canadian law
- Understand how law shapes our lives in many different and complex ways
- Understand the relationship of law and social inequalities and the potential of law to promote social justice

Course Format

This course will be delivered entirely asynchronously. If lectures are required, they will be posted on the Monday of that week. Lectures will not be posted each week. Please consult the schedule of lectures and readings for lecture dates. In this course, we will combine traditional lectures with group discussions. Student peers are a powerful source of learning and students are encouraged to play an active role in the construction of their knowledge.

Office Hours: The instructor is available for zoom office hours throughout the week. Rather than limiting all students to a scheduled day/time each week, please send an email (martine.dennie@ucalgary.ca) to schedule a time. In your email requesting an appointment, please indicate several possible times that you are available, and the instructor will choose from your availability.

Learning Resources

Required textbook:

Banakar, R. and Travers, M. (2013). Law and Social Theory. Hart Publishing. The book will be available through the University of Calgary library. An e-book is also available.

The remaining readings will be available online. Instructions on how to access the resources will be posted on D2L.

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).

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;
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Broadband internet connection.
- Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

The table below outlines the schedule of topics. Please consult the detailed course schedule on D2L for schedules of lectures and readings. Links for each reading (with the exception of the required textbook) is available in the detailed course schedule.

Date	Topic
Week 1 (January 11-15)	Introduction to the course
Week 2 (January 18-22)	Introduction to Socio-Legal Theories
Week 3 (January 25-29)	Introduction to Sociological Jurisprudence

Week 4 (February 1-5)	Roscoe Pound's Sociological Jurisprudence
Week 5 (February 8-12)	Introduction to Legal Realism
Week 6 (February 15-19)	<i>Reading Week</i>
Week 7 (February 22-26)	Legal Realism continued
Week 8 (March 1-5)	Introduction to Cotterrell's Sociology of Law
Week 9 (March 8-12)	The Intersection of Law and Culture
Week 10 (March 15-19)	Introduction to Critical Legal Studies
Week 11 (March 22-26)	Feminist Legal Theory
Week 12 (March 29-April 2)	Critical Race Theory
Week 13 (April 6-9)	Postcolonial Legal Theory
Week 14 (April 12-15)	Course Wrap-Up

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

Assignment	Grade Weight	Due Date
Student Introductions on D2L	2%	January 25th, 2021
4 Quizzes (1 for each part of the course)	40% (10% each)	Quiz 1: February 9 th Quiz 2: March 2 nd Quiz 3: March 16 th Quiz 4: April 13 th
Research Idea for Final Project	3%	Friday, February 12 th
Group Reading/Reflection Diary	15% reading summaries 20% reflections	Friday, April 9 th
Final Project	20%	Thursday, April 15 th
Total	100%	

1. *Student Introductions (2%)*

Let's get to know each other!

Your introduction can take whatever form you're most comfortable with, whether it is a video, a selfie with captions, a YouTube video, a Tik Tok, or other format that is appropriate. When preparing your introduction, please keep in mind that this class is quite large! So keep it as short as possible so we all have an opportunity to look at the submissions. As a matter of guidelines, videos should be kept under two minutes and texts can be 2-5 sentences.

I encourage you to be creative with your submissions. Let us know your name, program, and year of study, but also feel free to share with the class anything else you'd like us to know about you. For example, you can share some of your favourite movies, TV shows, sports, music, video games, etc. What are your interests outside of school? What are your career aspirations? And so on.

Please post your introduction under the Discussion Forum on D2L titled "Student Introductions". Your introduction must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM on **Monday, January 25th, 2021.**

2. *Group Reading/Reflection Diary (total 35%)*

Groups of 8-10 will be assigned randomly on D2L on January 25th. The goal of the research diary is to learn from each other in your understandings and interpretations of the theories examined in the course. The diary also serves as a comprehensive document to draw from when you work on the final project.

There will be two components to your diary:

a) Reading Summaries (worth 15%)

Include a diary entry for each required reading in the course. You can divide the summaries by group member so each group member is responsible for 2-3 summaries throughout the term.

The summary should be no more than 500 words each.

b) Reading Reflections (worth 20%)

Include a reflection for each week and discuss how the theories/readings for that week might apply to your research idea. While there is no word limit for the reflections, the suggested length is approximately one page single space. If you split up into smaller group for the final project (see below), you can prepare a separate reflection portion of the diary per smaller group/research idea.

The diary can be done through a shared google document or similar online document sharing software. While the goal of the diary is to add reflection notes each week as you move through the lectures, readings, and resources, you can also opt to have group discussions via zoom, group chats, and/or email exchanges to supplement the document and your understanding of the theories. The reflection diary is a crucial element as you work towards your final project. The more you include in your reflections, the easier it will be to compile information for your final project.

Note on group participation: Each group member should contribute to the summaries and reflections. Please indicate clearly in the diary who completed which section (you can include names with each entry or assign a colour to each member and colour code the text).

The diary is due on **Friday, April 9th by 11:59 PM** in the D2L dropbox titled "Reading/Reflection Diary".

3. Research Idea (3%)

As a group, you will choose your research topic early: this is to ensure that you have a topic in mind as you move through the readings and update your reflection entries in your diaries. The final project will be completed in groups of 2 or more*. You can split up your diary group according to research interests and format preference for the final project.

A list of research ideas will be posted on D2L. You are welcome to choose any of the topics in this list, but you are encouraged to come with your own ideas. More information regarding topics will be available on D2L.

Write a 250-300 word abstract summarizing your research idea. The deadline to submit your research idea is **Friday, February 12th by 5 PM** in the dropbox titled "Research Idea", but you are encouraged you

to submit them as early as possible. Since you are welcome to split up into smaller groups, please include the names and student IDs for each group member that you will work with for the final project.

* If you prefer to work individually on the final project, please advise the instructor as soon as possible to discuss.

4. Final Project (20%)

Using the research idea you submitted earlier in the course, you will apply one of the theories from the course to your research idea. The goal of the final project is to explain and discuss the applicability and relevance of the chosen theoretical approach to your research idea. Your project should include the following sections:

- Introduce your research idea
- Introduce the theory chosen using readings from the course and any additional sources you deem necessary
- Explain the relevance of the theory chosen to your research idea
- Explain how the theoretical approach is useful for understanding your research idea
- Explain why this theory the best option for framing your research (as opposed to other theories examined in this course)
- Include any other discussion item that you deem important for your research idea

Your final project can take the form of a traditional essay, a podcast, or a video presentation.

If you choose **the essay option**:

- 10-12 pages
- APA format
- Include a reference list
- Double spaced

If you choose **the podcast or video option**:

- Approximately 3-5 minutes per group member (i.e. 6-10 minutes total for a group of 2; 9-15 minutes total for a group of 3; 12-20 minutes total for a group of 4; and so on)
- Not every group member needs a speaking role, for example:
 - o one person can prepare intro/outro music, any special effects/editing, etc.
 - o one person can be the host of the podcast and/or facilitate the discussion
 - o the rest can be podcast guests or presenters
- Be as creative as you'd like
- Submit a reference list with your audio or video file in APA format

The final project is due on the last day of classes on **Thursday, April 15th by 11:59 PM** in the dropbox titled "Final Project".

5. Section Quizzes (40%; 10% each quiz)

There will be a quiz to be completed on D2L after we complete each part of the course. The quizzes are to be completed individually and they are closed-book. The dates and sections are as follows:

Date	Section
February 9 th	Sociological Jurisprudence
March 2 nd	Legal Realism
March 16 th	The Intersection of law and culture
April 13 th	Critical Legal Theories

Each quiz will consist of multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, and/or fill-in-the-blank questions. All lectures and readings are subject to examination.

The quiz is to be completed on D2L. They will be timed quizzes. Each quiz will be available for 24 hours to be completed at your convenience. But please note that once you begin, you will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz, plus 50% extra time for any technical issues (for a total of 45 minutes). The exam will become available in D2L at 11 AM on the date of the exam and will be available for 24 hours. For example, this means that you must begin the quiz no later than 10:15 AM on February 10th in order to complete the first quiz and have all 45 minutes.

For each quiz, the instructor will be available to answer questions from 11 AM to 5 PM on the date of the quiz. If you think you might have questions during the quiz, please make sure to complete the quiz during that window.

Final Exam Information

There will be no final exam in 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.

Grades will be assigned on earned marks to one decimal point. The grade brackets detailed above are not flexible (i.e., 89.9 is never 90.0).

Absences and Deferrals

Students who miss class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their 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 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 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 the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or 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 their 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.

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/policies/files/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. For more information click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

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. For more information, click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

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. 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.

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.