SOCl 434(A01) – Issues in Deviance, Crime, Law and Social Control: Sociology of Law

Instructor: Dr. Don Fetherston, J.D., Ph.D.

Course Description:

This course begins by providing foundational knowledge of Canada’s legal system and how it works. Legal problem solving methods used by lawyers in Canada are studied and practically applied in various areas of law including contracts and criminal law (law studied from inside the legal system). Law is then studied from the point of view of sociologists (law studied from outside the legal system).

Topics may include:

a) Law as both a reflection of and a cause of social structure;
b) Law as repressive, functional, and ideological
c) Inconsistencies between the formal written law and law in action;
d) Inequalities in access to law and justice in Canada
e) The legal rights of animals other than Homo sapiens
f) Competing ideas concerning the appropriate role of the Supreme Court
g) Indigenous rights and new rules of evidence

Course Pre/Co-requisite(s):
Minimum third-year standing, declared Honours or Major in Sociology, or permission of the department.

Recommendation(s):
SOCl 202, SOCI 206, AND /OR SOCI 307 recommended prior to SOCI 434

** A more detailed course outline will be distributed to students during the first week of class.