

SOCI 313 (AO1) - Sociology of Law

Instructor: Hassan Arif received his PhD in Sociology and a law degree from the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. He also studied Political Science at Carleton University in Ottawa. He taught Political Sociology and Law in Society at the University of New Brunswick.

Hassan Arif has worked as a columnist, publishing with a variety of magazines and newspapers including Spacing magazine, Municipal World magazine, the New Brunswick Telegraph Journal, and the Toronto Star. He was a lawyer at the Head Office of Public Prosecution Services in New Brunswick, working on appellate litigation and developing courses for the ongoing legal education of prosecutors. He currently works at the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development, in Victoria, British Columbia.

Course Description and Objectives: This course explores the intersection of law and society, how social values, political pressure, and socio-economic factors shape the development of the law. This includes how the law evolves and changes.

In this course, students will see how social movements shaped changes in the law. This includes how feminist advocacy led to changes in laws around marriage, divorce, and custody. It also includes how social and cultural values shaped the development of Canada's constitution, what was considered "rights" in the 19th century is different in the 20th and 21st centuries. This course will also look at the intersection of criminal law and human rights, environmental law and socio-economic inequality, as well as indigenous law in the context of colonialism and reconciliation.

Students will gain an appreciation of the intersection of two disciplines, law and sociology, and learn about the broader social, economic, historic, and political contexts in which law develops and changes.

Skills Development: This course will provide students skills in cross-disciplinary research and analysis, in particular how the lens of sociology provides a broader understanding of how law develops and changes. Through course assignments, students will hone their skills in legal and sociological research and analysis, as well as their writing and communication skills.

Recommendation(s): SOCI 202, and SOCI 306 or SOCI 307 recommended prior to SOCI 313

Required Materials: Please refer to the syllabus, provided in class.

**This on-line outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.