

## LAW, JUSTICE & SOCIETY HONOURS SEMINAR

LJSO 4000.03

LJSO Acting Programme Coordinator: Louise Carbert ([louise.carbert@dal.ca](mailto:louise.carbert@dal.ca))

Seminar: Friday 10 am; Mona Campbell 1107 [to be adjusted]

---

*Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. The Mi'kmaq people signed the "Peace and Friendship Treaties" with the Crown. We are all Treaty people.*

---

### OVERVIEW

The Honours degree is a version of the BA which recognizes outstanding academic achievement. It is a specialized program of study, with specific admission and completion requirements. This course—the Honours seminar—is one of the requirements for completion of the Honours degree. It is required both for “concentrated” Honours in LJSO and for “combined” Honours in LJSO and another discipline, where LJSO is the primary department. If you are doing a combined Honours degree, and LJSO is not your primary department, don't take this course. There is probably another Honours seminar (or something like it) in your primary department that you should be taking instead.

You can find more information about the Honours programme, including the criteria for admission and completion, from the Law, Justice & Society website <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/law-justice-society/programs.html>

The Honours seminar does NOT meet every week. As outlined in the schedule below, we convene for specific events at scheduled dates. Refer to syllabus for specific dates when we meet. Deposit all assignments to the corresponding dropbox on Brightspace.

### SEMINAR COMPONENTS

1. Attend and participate in scheduled seminar meetings.
2. All components must be completed, and receive a passing grade, including “pass/fail” assignments.
3. Complete a series of assignments in the Fall, as preparatory work for your Honours essay research.
4. Give a fall-term presentation to the seminar, based on your preliminary work on your Honours thesis.
5. Give a winter-term presentation to the seminar (attended by your supervisor) based on research and draft work on your Honours essay.
6. Present your Honours project in a poster presentation at an LJSO end-of-term event.

## **SEMINAR OBJECTIVES**

1. Provide general guidance and support for students preparing to undertake their Honours essays.
2. Note that the seminar schedule does not correspond to all due dates. Sometimes we meet and the assignment is due a few days later.
3. Provide practical instruction about managing a large, multi-month project: scheduling, anticipating and avoiding ethical problems; editing strategies, etc.
4. Facilitate and encourage the building of a mutually supportive community in this year's cohort of Honours students.
5. Provide practice in productive peer review and collaboration.
6. Provide exposure to issues of law and justice in a variety of disciplinary contexts.
7. Provide an opportunity to present visually appealing and instructive material to an audience.

## **THESIS OBJECTIVES**

1. Define a clear and manageable research question to be addressed (with or w/out hypotheses);
2. Develop a substantially original research project at a sophisticated level of analysis;
3. Carry out in-depth and detailed inquiry (within confined parameters) on a topic that obsesses you;
4. Dedicate time and effort to revising, editing, and refining a substantial piece of writing;
5. Initiate and carry out sustained engagement with one or more faculty members;
6. Provide an introduction to the challenges involved in research and analysis beyond the undergraduate level.

## **FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES**

As acting coordinator of the LJSO programme, Dr. Carbert is the coordinator for the LJSO Honours seminar. Your relationship with Dr. Carbert is principally administrative, related to the expeditious completion of your thesis and thus your progress through to convocation.

Your most intensive relationship is with your supervisor. They serve as your intellectual mentor, guiding you through research, and writing the thesis. Each of you will forge a unique relationship with your supervisor, including when and how often you meet to discuss your progress. If difficulties in that relationship arise, Dr. Carbert (the acting programme coordinator) steps in to resolve the situation.

Each student is responsible for "recruiting" their own supervisor. Arranging a supervisor may occur in collaboration with the programme coordinator, who retains final approval on the choice of supervisor. Your supervisor must hold an approved academic position. Please consult the programme coordinator if you are uncertain about this process.

## **ASSIGNMENT SCHEME**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due date</b> [to be modified]	<b>% value</b>
LJSO Honours admission form approved	20 September	pass/fail
LJSO Honours thesis form	11 October	pass/fail
Application to Research Ethics Board	Immediately as appropriate	pass/fail
Annotated bibliography to supervisor	18 October	<b>10</b>
Thesis proposal draft to seminar	22 November	pass/fail
Thesis proposal to supervisor	25 November	pass/fail
Thesis presentation to seminar & supervisor	31 January	pass/fail
Penultimate thesis text to supervisor	1 March	pass/fail
Completed thesis text to supervisor	21 March	<b>70</b>
Thesis poster presentation at LJSO event	4 April	<b>20</b>

## **SCHEDULE** [dates subject to modification]

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Preparation</i>	<i>Assessed</i>	<i>Seminar</i>
6 September	Meet and greet introductions	<a href="#">Complete application for admission to the BA Honours programme in LJSO</a>	pass/fail	<b>yes</b>
20 September	What are our expectations and requirements for working with a supervisor?	Have a supervisor in place; report on plan to work with supervisor. <a href="#">Submit approved thesis proposal form</a>	pass/fail	<b>yes</b>
20 September	Are the ethical requirements for doing research with human participants excessively scrupulous or not?	<a href="#">Complete course on research ethics</a> . If doing thesis with people, submit an application to <a href="#">Research Ethics Board</a> .	pass/fail	no
18 October	Annotated bibliography to be approved by supervisor	Submit an annotated bibliography of 10 - 15 sources, as appropriate for your topic.	<b>10%</b>	<b>yes</b>
22 November	Draft thesis proposal for review and critique in seminar	Submit draft thesis proposal to Brightspace discussion board.	pass/fail	<b>yes</b>
23 November	Thesis proposal to be approved by supervisor	Submit thesis proposal to supervisor and coordinator	pass/fail	no
17 January	Visualizing knowledge	Resources on Brightspace	pass/fail	<b>yes</b>
31 January	Oral presentation. Schedule to be determined.	Slide presentation of results to seminar and supervisor.	pass/fail	<b>yes</b>
1 March	Penultimate (i.e. draft) of thesis text	Submit penultimate text for revision and editing at supervisor's instruction.	pass/fail	no
15 March	Thesis text	Submit final text to supervisor and program coordinator	<b>70%</b>	no
4 April	Poster presentation at LJSO end-of-term event.	Present a poster version of thesis for public viewing and comment at LJSO social event.	<b>20%</b>	<b>yes</b>

## ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments to be submitted on Brightspace and directly to your supervisor. Assignments that are to be discussed in seminar may be shown (via projector) to the class with your permission. How you format your assignments (including the thesis itself) in terms of citations, font, margins, and such is at your supervisor's discretion. Your supervisor may request a hard-paper version. All components of the course must be completed in order to receive a passing grade, including pass / fail assignments.

### 1. Annotated bibliography

Submit a bibliography of some ten to fifteen sources. To annotate is to explain how each source is situated in the corresponding literature, the methodological approach used, and how it contributes to the investigation at hand. The author's abstract is a good beginning but must be supplemented by an additional statement about how the source fits into your own project.

### 2. Draft thesis proposal: 500-1000 words

Based on a preliminary exploration of the topic, conversations with peers, and on the advice of your supervisor, complete a plan explaining where you plan to go with your research. Depending on the topic, it may make sense to present the draft proposal in outline form with bullets and numbers. The question to be pursued or the thesis to be argued should be front and centre. Include a bibliography.

### 3. Thesis proposal: 1000 – 2000 words

The final thesis proposal will be much like the draft proposal, just better. It will be more detailed as a result of integrating feedback from your supervisor and peers. At this point, it is appropriate to include a tentative outline of the structure of the thesis in terms of chapters.

### 4. Research presentation: 10 minutes slide show talk; 20 minutes discussion of slide show

Prepare a slide presentation about the results of your work to the Honours seminar. The audience will include your own supervisor as well as other students' supervisors.

### 5. Penultimate version (i.e. draft) of the completed thesis: approximately 30-50 pages.

This penultimate version should be as close as possible to the final version in layout, formatting, and editing. Even so, your supervisor will have comments and criticism that must be addressed. Substantial work may still be required at this late date.

### 6. Final thesis

### 7. Poster presentation at LJSO social event

To some extent, the poster is a hard-copy version of the slides from your earlier research presentation. A standard poster board will be provided. At this informal social occasion, it is a matter of standing by your poster talking to people as they stop by to review your poster and make comments.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate.

### Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

### Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation.

### Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

### Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to be a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2).

### Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office at 1321 Edward St. or contact [elders@dal.ca](mailto:elders@dal.ca) or 902-494-6803.

### University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates) [http://www.dal.ca/academics/important\\_dates.html](http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html)
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html)

### Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support - Academic Advising: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html)
- Copyright and Fair Dealing: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>
- Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Student Health Services: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html)
- Counselling and Psychological Services: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html)
- Black Student Advising: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/black-student-advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html)
- Aboriginal Student Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/native.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/native.html)
- ELearning Website: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>
- Student Advocacy Services: <https://www.dsu.ca/services/community-student-services/student-advocacy-service>

- Dalhousie Ombudsperson: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html)
- Writing Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html)
- Studying for Success program and tutoring: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html)

### **From the University Calendar**

"Students are expected to complete class work by the prescribed deadlines. Only in special circumstances ... may an instructor extend such deadlines." Late papers will be assessed a late penalty at the instructor's discretion. Students who miss a deadline on account of illness are expected to hand in the assignment within one week of their return to class, with a medical certificate, per academic regulations of the Dalhousie Calendar.

Papers should be submitted directly to the instructor or in person to the Political Science office between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on weekdays only. The instructor cannot assume responsibility for papers otherwise submitted.

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests, quizzes and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see [www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca](http://www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca) for more information and to obtain Form A: Request for Accommodation. Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require them will be able to participate in the class.

### **INFORMATION ON PLAGIARISM**

Proper documentation is required on all writing assignments. Failure to document sources constitutes plagiarism and can result in severe academic penalty. You should keep your rough notes and be prepared to defend your work orally. Consult a writing/style manual for acceptable citation styles.

Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived.

At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course; students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website. As a student in this class, you are to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course instructor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand.

Generative writing tools like Chat GPT, Google Translate and QuillBot (etc.) are not permitted in FASS classes, unless explicitly allowed by the course instructor.

---