

3. Program Curriculum, Structure and Learning Outcomes

3.1. Overview of Program Curriculum

The Law & Society program is built around a series of required courses that act as a curricular developmental tool that introduces and grounds the student in the field of socio-legal scholarship and research. These required courses are offered in first year (SOSC 1375) to introduce the student to the field of socio-legal studies, in second year (SOSC 2350) to introduce theory to law and society issues, concerns and areas, and in third year to more fully develop a theoretical sophistication in the study of law and society. Core and extended list courses then fill out the Major.

The first year of the program consists of the required introductory course and the option of a general education course on gender and the law. SOSC 1375 provides an overview of several major themes in the interdisciplinary field of socio-legal studies, including law and social justice, social science and legal knowledge, law and social change, and law, culture and diversity. Within these broad themes, substantive topics will differ from year to year in order to reflect both the breadth and diversity of research areas in the field.

The second year of the program consists of the required course and an optional course, SOSC 2652, which is an overview of the criminal justice system. Using social science disciplines and interdisciplinary methods, SOSC 2350 evaluates the interaction between law and society.

The third year of the program provides students with the opportunity to select from a broad range of courses in addition to the required course on socio-legal theories. These include courses on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, two research methodology courses, courses on social justice and social diversity, one on privacy and the law, another on law, labour and the state, others on disability and the law, law, medicine and madness, queering law, popular trials, and ethnographies of rights. This selection allows for a degree of specialization while at the same time remaining strongly rooted in broad theoretical questions and areas of inquiry.

The fourth year of the program requires students to take two 400-level courses, one from our diverse our seminar offerings and the other from the core or extended lists. The seminar course offerings notably are: Religions, Modes of governance and Law; Indigenous Peoples and the Law; Narratives of Legal Responsibility; Paradoxes of Rights; Globalization, Law and Democracy; Law and Sexuality; Law, Culture and Representation; and Law, and Citizenship and Migration.

In addition to these courses offered by Law & Society, students may take courses from our Extended List. This includes courses offered by other departments both within and beyond the Faculty of LA&PS, which included Anthropology, Economics, History, Humanities, Equity Studies, Languages/Literatures/Linguistics, Statistics, Philosophy, Political Science, Public Policy and Administration, Social Sciences, Sociology, Environmental Studies, Fine Arts, and Psychology. The extended list is imagined as a type of “breadth requirement” and a way of helping students to see beyond the boundaries of law and society while at the same time remaining within related areas of inquiry. The “extended list” requirement thus further reflects and reinforces the program’s interdisciplinary approach to the study of Law and Society

3.2. Program Requirements & Associated Learning Outcomes

The program offers four Honours Degree options as well as a General Certificate in Law and Society: (1) Honours Single Major BA in LASO [48 credits]; (2) Honours Double Major BA- Unlinked ([42 credits]; (3) Honours Double Major BA- Linked interdisciplinary [42 credits]; Honours Major/Minor BA with LASO as Major [42 credits]; & General Certificate in LASO [24 credits].

The program does not offer a Minor in Law and Society. Requirements for these 5 options are outlined below. For each degree combination, students must also fulfill the following requirements:

Residency Requirement: A minimum of 30 course credits and at least half (50%) of the course credits required in each undergraduate degree program major/minor must be taken at York University.

Graduation Requirement: Students must successfully complete (pass) at least 120 credits which meet the Faculty's degree and program requirements with a cumulative grade point average of at least 5.0 (C+).

General Education Requirement: As of September 2014, students must take a minimum of 21 General Education credits from the approved list of LA&PS General Education courses as follows: 6.0 credits in Natural Science; a 9.0 credit course in either the Social Science or Humanities categories; and a 6.0 credit course in the opposite category. All approved General Education courses may count for general education credit. Some may count for major credit. None may count as both.

Upper-Level Requirements: Students must complete at least 36 credits at the 3000 or 4000 level, including at least 18 credits at the 4000 level.

Courses Outside the Major (not applicable to honours double major & major/minor program types): A minimum of 18 credits in accordance with the following – not a major course or a course which is cross-listed with a major course. Not a General Education course that has been used to satisfy the General Education requirement.

(1) Honours Single Major BA in LASO [48 credits]

a. Required courses:

- i. AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 Introductory Socio-Legal Studies
- ii. AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 Law & Society (a Minimum final grade of C+ is required in order to continue in & graduate from Law & Society; AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 as prerequisite; completion of at least 24 credits)
- iii. AP/SOSC 3375 3.0 Socio-Legal Theories (AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 & AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 as prerequisites; completion of at least 54 credits.
- iv. 12 credits from the Core List of Law and Society courses – 6 of those being at the recommended 3000-level
- v. 18 credits from either the Core List or the Extended List – 6 credits of those at the 4000-level;
- vi. 6 credits chosen from the Law & Society Seminar series of courses: AP/SOSC 4350 6.0 – AP/SOSC 4364 6.0 (AP/SOSC 1375 3.0, AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 & AP/SOSC 3375 3.0 as prerequisites; completion of at least 84 credits).

(2) Honours Double Major BA – Unlinked [42 credits] – this double major may be pursued jointly with any other Honours BA program in the Faculties of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, Environmental Studies, Fine Arts, Health, or Science and Engineering.

a. Required courses:

- i. AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 Introductory Socio-Legal Studies
- ii. AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 Law & Society (a Minimum final grade of C+ is required in order to continue in & graduate from Law & Society; AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 as prerequisite; completion of at least 24 credits)
- iii. AP/SOSC 3375 3.0 Socio-Legal Theories (AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 & AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 as prerequisites; completion of at least 54 credits.
- iv. 12 credits from the Core List of Law and Society courses – 6 of those being at the recommended 3000-level
- v. 12 credits from either the Core List or the Extended List – 6 credits of those at the 4000-level;

- vi. 6 credits chosen from the Law & Society Seminar series of courses: AP/SOSC 4350 6.0 – AP/SOSC 4364 6.0 (AP/SOSC 1375 3.0, AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 & AP/SOSC 3375 3.0 as prerequisites; completion of at least 84 credits).

(3) **Honours Double Major BA – Linked Interdisciplinary [42 credits]** – this must be linked with one of the following: African Studies, European Studies, Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Social and Political Thought, or South Asian Studies.

a. Required courses:

- i. AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 Introductory Socio-Legal Studies
- ii. AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 Law & Society (a Minimum final grade of C+ is required in order to continue in & graduate from Law & Society; AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 as prerequisite; completion of at least 24 credits)
- iii. AP/SOSC 3375 3.0 Socio-Legal Theories (AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 & AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 as prerequisites; completion of at least 54 credits).
- iv. 12 credits from the Core List of Law and Society courses – 6 of those being at the recommended 3000-level
- v. 12 credits from either the Core List or the Extended List – 6 credits of those at the 4000-level;
- vi. 6 credits chosen from the Law & Society Seminar series of courses: AP/SOSC 4350 6.0 – AP/SOSC 4364 6.0 (AP/SOSC 1375 3.0, AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 & AP/SOSC 3375 3.0 as prerequisites; completion of at least 84 credits).

(4) **Honours Major/Minor BA [42 credits]** – this major may be pursued jointly with any other Honours Minor BA program in the Faculties of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, Environmental Studies, Fine Arts, Health, or Science and Engineering.

a. Required courses:

- i. AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 Introductory Socio-Legal Studies
- ii. AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 Law & Society (a Minimum final grade of C+ is required in order to continue in & graduate from Law & Society; AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 as prerequisite; completion of at least 24 credits)
- iii. AP/SOSC 3375 3.0 Socio-Legal Theories (AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 & AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 as prerequisites; completion of at least 54 credits).
- iv. 12 credits from the Core List of Law and Society courses – 6 of those being at the recommended 3000-level
- v. 12 credits from either the Core List or the Extended List – 6 credits of those at the 4000-level;
- vi. 6 credits chosen from the Law & Society Seminar series of courses: AP/SOSC 4350 6.0 – AP/SOSC 4364 6.0 (AP/SOSC 1375 3.0, AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 & AP/SOSC 3375 3.0 as prerequisites; completion of at least 84 credits).

(5) **General Certificate in LASO [24 credits]** – not open to students who are pursuing or who already hold a degree in Law and Society. Students must have a cumulative grade point average in these 24 credits of 5.0 (C+) or higher.

a. Required courses:

- i. AP/SOSC 2350 6.0 Law & Society (as of September 2009 AP/SOSC 1375 3.0 as prerequisite, however this course will not be counted as part of the 24 credits)
- ii. 18 additional credits from either the Core List or Extended List of approved Law & Society courses, of which at least 6 credits must be taken at the 4000-level.

3.3. How Program Curriculum & Structure Support Achievement of Learning Outcomes

York University has identified six undergraduate degree level expectations (UDLEs) which are applied to all undergraduate programs. These include: (1) Depth and Breadth of Knowledge; (2) Knowledge of Methodologies; (3) Application of Knowledge; (4) Communication Skills; (5) Awareness of Limits of Knowledge; and (6) Autonomy and Professional Capacity. For each of these UDLEs, the Law and Society program has developed a series of program learning outcomes. These UDLEs are reflected in the seven core outcome objectives of Law and Society. Law and Society's core learning outcome objectives are the following:

- Doctrinal knowledge: to be able to describe the substance of law (eg differences in legal systems); to have knowledge of jurisprudential rules & procedures; knowledge of legal and quasi-legal institutions.
- Theoretical knowledge & application: theoretical approaches; develop and answer theoretical questions.
- Methodological knowledge & application: knowledge of different approaches of research methods (eg qualitative, quantitative, archival); evaluate different merits of different methods; conceptualize and actualize research method and question.
- Research Skills: undertake basic legal research; undertake social science research.
- Writing Skills: summarize socio-legal literature; critical reflection on readings; write discussion questions; book reviews and shorter papers of 5- pages; longer papers of 15+ pages; case summaries.
- Citizenship: respect for Student Code of Conduct; distinguish personal opinions from academic discussion; learning to be members of the Law and Society and York University communities; as citizens being shaped by and shaping the law.
- Verbal/Professional Skills: participation in tutorial and class discussions, including small break-out group discussions; designing and making class/tutorial presentations; learning how to express contentious issues in a respectful way; learning how to listen in a respectful way.

Year Level	Learning Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators
1000	To introduce core concepts in the field; To read for argument, rather than information; To craft & write an argument; To conduct basic social science research; To read a legal case	Identify key arguments in course readings; Draft argument; Use library resources at Scott library for research	Ability to discuss the field of law & society with some confidence; Draft an argument & support it in written assignment; Library assignment; Case summary assignment
2000	To understand the legal system, its institutions, & socio-legal theory; To be familiar with the field of law and society; To recognize and read interdisciplinary material & research; To conduct basic socio-legal research; To analyze a legal case; To write a socio-legal essay that demonstrates both research and	Curiosity about the field; Sustained interest in law as a cultural phenomenon, as a site of communication & conflict; Knowledge about law's power, law's language & institutions	Work with material in exam; Identify & find interdisciplinary material for research essay; Case summary & analysis assignment in 2350; Choose a relevant topic, find 3 sources in socio-legal scholarship, write essay; Participate actively & constructively in tutorial; Demonstrate familiarity with course themes & content in conversations & assignments

	analytical skills		
3000	<p>To be familiar with & use interdisciplinary research methods in a sustained way;</p> <p>To be familiar with & use a variety of socio-legal perspectives & theories;</p> <p>To conduct legal research – find a decision or a statute;</p> <p>To recognize & critically assess the key arguments of a text;</p> <p>To have a deeper appreciation of the field</p>	<p>Not just vocational, not reductionist</p> <p>appreciation of law, law's relationship to culture, society, economy, politics.</p> <p>Exposure to diverse scholarship.</p>	<p>Essay assignments;</p> <p>presentations in class; reading response journals; group discussions.</p>
4000	<p>To conduct independent research & thinking on a law & society topic;</p> <p>To produce a socio-legal research essay with argumentation;</p> <p>To conduct legal research (to track a case or statute);</p> <p>To situate their research & interests in the field of law & society</p>	<p>Preparation for graduate studies in social sciences/field of socio-legal studies</p>	<p>Self-directed research in the field;</p> <p>Essays of 20 pages;</p> <p>Critical interrogation of socio-legal theory and research with ability to discuss in class;</p> <p>Student-led conferences or seminar facilitation.</p>

