



Western University
SOCIOLOGY 3260A/B

Sociology of Law
Fall 2017
Tuesday: 1:30-4:30, SH 3345

Instructor: Professor Dale Ballucci

Office Hours: Monday- 12:30-2:00 pm or by appointment

Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5403

Email: dballucc@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: Lorna Ferguson

Email: lfergu5@uwo.ca

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the broad ranging field of law and society. Our focus is to challenge how people ordinarily understand law by beginning to think about law outside the box of legal logic. This course will introduce students to different ways of thinking about law as a social phenomenon, as well as some of the main themes and debates that characterize the field of law and society today. Themes addressed may include law and social control, law and culture, law and knowledge, law and violence, law and governance, law and diversity, and law and social change. Students will consider the various ways law gains its meaning and authority from society and the extent to which law shapes society through its regulatory force.

Required Text(s):

- 1) Calavita, Kitty (2010). *Invitation to Law & Society: An Introduction to the Study of Real Law*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.
- 2) Additional readings will be provided via OWL.

Antirequisite(s): The former Sociology 260F/G, and 2260

Prerequisites: 1.0 from: Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should:

- Distinguish between personal opinion and critical analysis
- Compare and contrast different ways of thinking about the interconnections between law and society
- Describe and challenge the ideal image of Law by looking at the everyday practices and experiences of law
- Identify and describe various social forces that influence, and are influenced by, law
- Identify, define and illustrate basic concepts in law and society

- Be prepared for Advanced topics in Sociology of Law 4455

Method of Evaluation:

1. Class Group Assignments/Discussions 30%
2. Case Brief 10%
3. Midterm Exam 25%
4. Final Exam 35%

Evaluation Breakdown:

1. Participation and in Class Assignments (30%)

Throughout the year, we will complete a number of tasks in class. These tasks do not require any extra preparation other than what is reasonably required for any class (e.g. attendance, familiarity with the required weekly texts/articles, group work, etc.). These tasks may include, but are not limited to, individual or collaborative short writing assignments, pop-quizzes, and/or topic-specific individual or group projects/exercises. For group assignments the maximum amount of students is 5. For assessment purposes, I may randomly take attendance and/or randomly assign in-class assignments. Attendance is mandatory for participation and all in-class assignments. **NO MAKE-UPS.**

2. Case Brief (10%): October 3 or 17, 2017

The case brief is to be submitted via email to Lorna Ferguson. Loran will be in attendance to answer questions. The case brief requirements will outlined in a class workshop held on September 26, 2017.

3. Midterm Exams (25%): October 24, 2017

The midterm exam will be given in class and will address all material covered in the class. Mid-term 1 will include material between September 10th and October 17th. Questions will be based on lectures, readings, films, discussions, and guest lectures. The exam **may** include multiple choice, true and false, matching concept-definitions, fill in the blank questions, and/or short answer questions.

4. Final Exam (35%): TBA

The final exam will be given during the formal examination period and may include all material in the course. Questions will be based on lectures, readings, films, discussions, and guest lectures. The exam **may** include multiple choice, true and false, matching concept-definitions, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions. The final examination period is December 6-19. Students are advised **NOT** to make travel commitments during this time period. Please note that: students are expected to write their examinations in an honest and straightforward manner; students who do not write the final exam will fail the course; only students with proper documentation will be allowed to write a make-up exam.

5. Final Exam Bonus Grades

From time to time I may provide opportunities for bonus marks. I may offer these on days with low attendance, either at the start or end of each class.

How to Contact Me

I can be contacted via email at dballucc@uwo.ca. Only emails that use proper etiquette will be answered. For example, a salutation is required. “Hello Professor Ballucci, Dr. Ballucci, or Dale” is acceptable. “Hey”, “Miss”, or the absence of a salutation is not acceptable. Also, no texting terminology is acceptable. Lastly, provide me with your name and the course and section you are emailing about. Also, please do not email me questions about course content or course procedures. I will take time in every class to answer these types of questions. There are, however, two main exceptions to this policy:

1. You are experiencing a personal emergency that I need to know about before the next class.
2. You want to make an appointment to see me.

I will give my best effort to respond to these emails within 24 hours.

How to get important information:

All relevant course material will be available in the course outline and in class. Course announcements and information may also be sent to your western email account.

Approach and Expectations

The learning outcomes will be achieved through lectures, readings, class discussions and activities, multimedia clips, written and collaborative work, and exams. Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes
- Read any required readings **before** class;
- Participate actively and thoughtfully in class discussions and group assignments (treat others with respect);
- Make notes on class content and identify questions as they arise during the process of reading required texts;
- Keep all rough work (notes, drafts, etc.) until their final marks have been officially recorded and be able to supply this rough work if requested by the course instructor;
- Keep an electronic copy of any paper or written commentary that is submitted in this course. The instructor may verify any written work using anti-plagiarism software (e.g., Turnitin.com);
- Contact Dr. Oliver with any problems that may arise during the semester.
- **Turn off all handheld electronic devices in class and refrain from using cell phones, messenger, facebook, and other social networking tools during class time;**

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

All assignments are due on the dates noted. Late course work will only be accepted without penalty with appropriate documentation that has been approved by the Academic Counseling office. Coursework received after the due date will have their grade reduced by a rate of 5% per a day (including weekends).

If an assignment is due at the end of a morning class (12:30) it will be considered one day late any time after 12:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. the following day).

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Examinations:

There will be no electronic devices allowed during tests and examinations.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western

(http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Reading and Note Taking

READING LAW

Mechanics of reading and note taking:

Read the text and make notes (on a separate piece of paper) indicating what seem like the most important parts of the text. When you have gone through the text once, go back and take notes in outline form, by paraphrasing sentences or paragraphs until you have reduced the many pages of text to a few pages in your own words. (Make sure to keep an accurate citation to the work so that any future use of these notes and paraphrases can be appropriately cited.) Do not rely on underlining. Do not rely on highlighting. To “know” a text, you need to convert it into your own words and phrases and claims. The text needs to be processed several different ways. Underlining does not help you learn the material.

Analytical Reading:

- a. Classify the book or article according to kind and subject matter. Into what paradigm or research program (genre) does that work fit? What is the piece about as a whole?
- b. Define the specific problem or problems the author has tried to address. What question does the author claim to address? You might also want to think about how this reading fits into the course. Why did the instructor place the reading at this point in the course? What is the topic on the syllabus? How does this reading provide an answer or information for this topic?
- c. A theoretical statement proposes a relationship between elements of a process. What theoretical statements does the author make?
- d. What are the concepts and variables used? Become familiar with the author by defining key words. Know the details of the argument.
- e. How does the author’s argument / position compare with that of others who address the same question or related questions? Where are the points of similarity and difference?
- f. What normative statements (value judgments) does the author make? What values does the author assume readers will share? What assumptions does the author make that may be contestable?
- g. What is the author’s methodology? What constitutes data in this reading? Know the author’s arguments by finding them in, or constructing them out of, sequences of sentences.
- h. Determine which of the problems the author has solved and which she has not; and of those not solved, decide which the author knows he has failed to solve. If you disagree with the author, on what basis do you disagree? Is the author uninformed, misinformed, illogical, imprecise, or incomplete? Criticize fairly; do not pass judgment based on personal opinion, taste, or preference. Is the argument internally consistent? Does the data (both that presented by the author and other data in the field) support the argument?