Course Outline  
The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Sociology  

Course 2260B Section 001  
Sociology of Law  

Professor: Daphne Heywood, Ph. D.  
Class Hours: Wednesdays 7:00-10:00; SSC 2028  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
E-mail: dheywood@uwo.ca  

OVERVIEW  

This course offers an introduction to and overview of theoretical perspectives in the sociology of law, and an analysis of legal processes in contemporary society. While the main focus would be on the sociological analysis of law and the Canadian legal system, the course also offers an international and comparative perspective. Themes include the origins of law, the behaviour of law, classical & critical perspectives on the social functions of law.  

Please be warned that this is a heavy reading course. Law is a complex subject and you will be required to keep up with the readings in order to progress satisfactorily.  

PREREQUISITE(S): Sociology 1020 or 1021E  
ANTIREQUISITE(S): the former Sociology 260F/G  

Note: Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.  

REQUIRED TEXTS:  
The following texts are required reading and available at the bookstore:  


In addition to the texts, selected articles will be available on-line and/or will be placed on reserve in the library as supplementary readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Mid-term Test** scheduled for February 25, 2009 on the content of classes 1-6 (MCQ: 2 hours)

**Group Presentation:** During Classes as designated on the schedule, groups (of 7-8) will be responsible for presenting to the class a summary and critique of one of the additional readings, and for leading discussion on 2 related questions (30 minutes). The groups will be assigned by the Course Instructor.

**Participation:** *NB: Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to participate in the question period to qualify for this evaluation component. A mark will be dropped from the total for all unexplained absences. Clear documentation is needed to support any exemption to this process.

**Final Examination** covers all course material, but relies heavily on material covered in Classes 7-12. Date & Venue to be announced (MCQ’s & Short Answers: 2 hours)

**Exams**

Exams will be based on material covered in the text, lectures, and assigned readings. Both exams will be two hours in length. The final exam will cover material from the entire course, although greater emphasis will be placed on material from the second half. Each of the exams will consist primarily of multiple choice questions, but will also contain identification/short answer style written questions.

**Scholastic Offences:**

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING ARE SERIOUS SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES. You should also be aware that “Computer-marked multiple choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.”


**Policy on Missed Tests, Presentations & Exams**

Consideration for a missed test or presentation will be provided only in the most compelling of circumstances, such as serious illness or a death in the
family. To be considered for a make-up, you must:

- notify Professor Daphne Heywood of your circumstances BEFORE the scheduled date and time.
- provide clear documentation of your illness.

*Note there are new procedures for obtaining medical documentation. Students who have consulted Health Services go directly to their Faculty Counselling Office. (The Counselling Office consults Health Services).

Students who have consulted off campus doctors have the doctor complete the medical form which is available online and take it to their Counselling Office.

Check the following website for related forms and information: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm.

- notify Professor Heywood in the first week of the course about conflicts with religious observances that are included on the Equity * Human Rights Services’ website: http://www.uwo.ca/equity/docs/mfcalendar.htm,

**Use of Electronic Devices**

Laptop computers are allowed for the purpose of note-taking during class. Students are reminded that this is the only use acceptable during class time. They will not be allowed during tests and examinations. No other electronic devices, including cell phones and I-Pods are to be in use during class time.

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

**Class 1: January 7, 2009**

**Readings:** Sociology of Law (Burtch), Introduction (5-22) & Chapter 3 (57-66)

**Class 2: January 14, 2009**

**Theoretical Foundations of the Sociology of Law**
- Karl Marx
- Max Weber on the Rationalization of Law
- Emile Durkheim on Law and Social Solidarity

**Readings:**
- Chapter 2: Sociology of Law (Burtch)

**Classes 3 & 4: January 21 & 28, 2009**

*The behavior of law/Jurisprudence vs. sociology of Law*

“Pure Sociology” & Law: Donald Black’s contribution to the Sociology of Law.

**Readings:**


**Class 5: February 4, 2009**

**Marxism & the Law**


*Two copies of the reading will be kept in the library at the reference desk.*

**Class 6: February 11, 2009**

**Critical Perspectives on the Sociology of Law (1)**

Law & Social Cohesion & Law & Social Control: Deviance/Criminal sanction in Canada

Law & Power Relations: Stratification, Inequality & Law

**Readings**

The Behavior of Law (Black, Chapter 2).

Sociology of Law (Burtch): Introduction (4-5) & Chapter 2: 30-35

*Additional Reading for Group Presentation:*  

**February 16-20, 2009**

**NO CLASS CONFERENCE WEEK … Enjoy, but revise for test!**

**Class 7: February 25, 2009 Midterm**

*Midterm TEST on material covered in classes 1-6*
**Class 8: March 4, 2009**

**Critical Perspectives on the Sociology of Law (2)**  

**Readings:**  
1. Sociology of Law (Burtch): Chapters 4, 5, 6, 9  
2. Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms. Available online at:  
3. Ontario Human Rights. Available online at:  
   [http://www.ohrc.on.ca/english/cases/index.shtml](http://www.ohrc.on.ca/english/cases/index.shtml)

**Supplementary Reading:**  
*Windsor Yearbook of Access to Justice* 20: 211-309. [Reserved in library]

**Additional Readings for Group Presentations**  


*Groups to present in the following class*  

**Class 9: March 11, 2009**  
**Critical Perspectives on the Sociology of Law (3)**  
Law & the Economy: Labour, Organizations & Law

**Readings**  
1. The Sociology of Law (Burtch): Chapter 3  
2. Judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada. Available online at:  

**Class 10: March 18, 2009**  
**Selected Issues in the Sociology of Law (1)**  
Discrimination & Law  
Disability & Accommodation  
Immigration & the Canadian Legal System
**Readings:**
Sociology of Law (Burtch, Chapters 5 & 6).

**Additional Readings for Group Presentations:**

Gravel, S. et al (2005) Disability and Immigration. Barriers in access to workers who have suffered work injuries. *Canadian Issues (Spring).*QC: Association of Canadian Studies. [*short reading... additional research required]*


**Class 11: March 25, 2009**

**Selected Issues in the Sociology of Law (2)**
Education & Law
Public Institutions & Law

**Readings:**
1. Ontario Safe Schools Act. Available online:
   http://www.ontla.on.ca/documents/StatusofLegOUT/b081_e.htm

**Additional Readings for Group Presentation:**


NB: One Group to present on both readings which treat the same topic.

Class 12: April 1, 2009
Selected Issues in the Sociology of Law (3)
Social Movements & Law
Globalization & Law

Reading:
Sociology of Law (Burtch): Chapter 7.

Additional Readings for Group Presentations:


*April 8, 2008: Review Session*