Law & Society
Sociology and Legal Studies 206
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00am – 12:20pm
Fisk Hall 217

Professor: Meghan Dawe
Email: meghan.dawe@northwestern.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00 – 4:30pm
Location: Sociology (1812 Chicago Avenue, Room 305)

Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Laura Acosta-Gonzalez
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00pm
Location: Locy Hall 310

Arielle Tolman
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00pm
Location: Café Bergson

Jeremy Kuperberg
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Office Hours: Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00pm
Location: Café Bergson

Course Description:

Law is everywhere. Law permits, prohibits, enables, legitimates, protects, and prosecutes citizens. Law shapes our day to day lives in countless ways. This course examines the connections and relationships of law and society using an interdisciplinary social science approach. As one of the founders of the Law and Society movement observed, “Law is too important to leave to lawyers.” Accordingly, this course will borrow from several theoretical, disciplinary, and interdisciplinary perspectives (such as sociology, anthropology, political science, critical studies, psychology) in order to explore the sociology of law and law’s role primarily in the American context (but with some attention to international law and global human rights efforts). The thematic topics to be discussed include law and social control; law’s role in social change; as well as law’s capacity to reach into complex social relations and intervene in existing normative institutions, organizational structures, and the like.

1 Laura is the TA for the discussion sections that meet Wednesday 4-4:50pm in Kresge Centennial Hall 2-435 and Wednesday 5-5:50pm in University Hall 122.
2 Arielle is the TA for the discussion sections that meet Tuesday 5-5:50pm in 555 Clark B01 and Wednesday 9-9:50pm in Pancoe Building Abbott Auditorium.
3 Jeremy is the TA for the discussion sections that meet Tuesday 5-5:50pm in Kresge Centennial Hall 2-410 and Wednesday 4-4:50pm in Frances Searle Building 2107.
In this course you will: Develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills; learn about the structure of the American legal system; employ an interdisciplinary approach to sociolegal studies; compare and contrast social science theories of law; and develop insight into the relationships between law and society.

Readings:


2. All course content except for the Calavita text is available electronically through e-reserves on Caesar.

Grades:

   | Paper (due 2/19 at start of class)  | 25%  
   | Midterm (2/05 in class)            | 25%  
   | Final (3/07 in class)              | 30%  
   | Section (attendance and participation) | 10%  
   | Lecture (attendance and participation) | 10%  

Paper: There is one 5-page paper due on February 19th at the start of class. It is worth 25% of your grade.4

Exams: Check the dates now. There will be no make-ups, so if you have a scheduling conflict you should not take the course.

Sections: Attendance AND participation in sections constitute 10% of your grade.5

Lectures: 10% of your grade will be based on lecture attendance and participation. A discussion question will be posted at the end of class and you will have 5 minutes to complete it. I suggest picking up a packet of cue cards, or else you can write on a half piece of paper. Be sure to include your full name, student number, and the name of your TA.

Contact: If you have any questions about the course, please come to my office hours or ask me in class.

Course Requirements and Expectations:

- Please be present when you are here.
- You will attend class and discussion sections regularly, and turn in an open-ended question response at the end of each class. You must attend the discussion section you are enrolled in.
- Attendance is required and will be taken via an open-ended ungraded question at the end of each lecture. Students who miss the attendance protocol (or who forget to write their name on their

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4 These will be submitted on paper (STAPLED together), printed on one side of the paper using Times New Roman 12 point font, double-spaced with 1 inch margins on all sides. Please read http://blogs.nd.edu/erin-mcdonell/insiders-guide-to-college-writing/.

5 There are five discussion sections during the quarter. Your attendance and participation are mandatory and constitute 10% of your grade.
paper) will be marked absent. I will begin taking attendance for lectures on January 15th so students who join the class late will not be penalized.

- Each student is permitted to miss two lectures and one discussion section meeting. You should reserve your permitted absences for truly necessary occasions as there will be no further exceptions. If you already know that attendance will be a problem, or if such an issue arises during the quarter, please come talk to me about it ASAP.
- For the tests and assignments, students will be responsible for all material covered in lectures, discussion sections, and assigned readings.
- All class and section discussion will be professional and polite, especially when we are discussing sensitive topics.
- Do not sell, give away, or otherwise make public the notes taken in my class. The lectures are my intellectual property and are not for sale by anyone else. You may share your notes directly with other students in the class but you may not sell or otherwise make public the notes taken in this class (this includes any of the various websites that facilitate this, or any other way that this is done).
- You may not record the class without my permission.
- Late papers will lose 5% points if turned in after the beginning of class on February 19th, and an additional 5% points for each day (including weekends) the paper is late.
- There are no make-ups for the midterm and final tests. I will only provide a make-up exam in the case of a crisis (a significant health issue or other critical and unexpected life event where it would be appropriate to involve your academic adviser).
- You must abide by Northwestern University’s Academic Integrity Policy.
- All work must be your own. Collaboration on the written assignment is not permitted.
- Suspected violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Dean's Office. For more information on Northwestern’s academic integrity policies, see https://www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/courses-registration-grades/integrity/.
- Northwestern’s plagiarism policy can be found at the following link: www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html.

Accessibility and Support:

- Any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with AccessibleNU (847-467-5530) and provide professors with an accommodation notification from AccessibleNU, preferably within the first two weeks of class. All information will remain confidential.
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Northwestern University’s mental health service, provides a variety of clinical services and educational workshops. Students can drop in to the CAPS office at 633 Emerson St., or call (847) 491-2151 to schedule an initial phone consultation with a counselor (usually the same day).
Class Meeting and Reading Schedule

Unit I: Introduction to Law and Society
What are we doing here?

WEEK 1 – NO SECTION MEETINGS

TU  1/08  Introduction to Law and Society


WEEK 2 – NO SECTION MEETINGS


Please listen to the Life of the Law podcast, "Marijuana Rules"


Unit II: Theoretical Foundations of Law and Society

WEEK 3 – SECTIONS MEET


TH  1/24  Cultural Models of Law and Society


6 All of the readings are required and you should do them BEFORE you come to class on the date listed.

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WEEK 4 – SECTIONS MEET

TU 1/29  Structural Models of Law and Society


TH 1/31  Conflict Models of the Relationship between Law and Society


WEEK 5 – NO SECTION MEETINGS

TU 2/05  In-class Midterm

TH 2/07  Honor Models of Law and Politics


Unit III:  Legal Conflicts as Social Constructs: Structures, Rules, and Roles

WEEK 6 – SECTIONS MEET


**WEEK 7 – SECTIONS MEET**

**TU 2/19** Paper is due at the beginning of class


**Unit IV: Why Do People Obey the Law?**

**TH 2/21** Theory 1: Deterrence


**WEEK 8 – SECTIONS MEET**

**TU 2/26** Theory 2: Conscience/Morality


**TH 2/28** Theory 3: Legitimacy and Respect for Authority


Please listen to the Life of the Law Podcast, “The Right to Beg”
Unit V: Law in Everyday Lives

WEEK 9 – NO SECTION MEETINGS


Please listen to the Life of the Law, “Block Boss”


TH 3/07 In-class Final