

*****Preliminary/Short Course Outline - Subject to change*****

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA**

**SOCIOLOGY OF LAW
077.370 LO2
3 credit hours, January 2004**

Instructor: Steven Kohm
Office: 301E Isbister
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Class Location: 235 Isbister
Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 - 12:45

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Sociology of Law is concerned with an examination of the relationship between law and the broader societal context which both shapes and is shaped by the legal order. The aim of this course is to gain an appreciation of sociological perspectives of law and to reconsider the role of formal legal regulation in relation to civil society. More specifically, our goal will be to “locate” law within the nexus of race, class and gender relations in society. Areas of emphasis will include theories of the role and function of law; the operation and practice of law in Canadian society; critical and feminist perspectives on law and society; law and moral regulation; popular cultural portrayals of law; and the legalization of everyday life.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The course will consist of lectures and discussions on topics in the assigned readings. A detailed syllabus of weekly assigned readings and topics will be provided at the start of classes. Students are expected to complete all the required readings and come to class prepared to engage in discussions of the topics covered. Students will be required to complete several small written tasks during class time (e.g. answer questions based on a film shown in class). In-class tasks must be completed during class time then they are assigned; no late submissions will be accepted.

The course evaluation will be based on three tests, one written assignment and several in-class tasks. Provided below is a breakdown of the value of each of the course requirements. Due dates provided below are TENTATIVE only and subject to change without notice. Details and final due dates will be provided at the start of classes.

Test 1	20%	Tentative Date: February 3, 2004
Test 2	20%	Tentative Date: March 9, 2004
Written Assignment	25%	Tentative Date: April 1, 2004
In-class Tasks	15%	N.A.
Test 3	20%	Tentative Date: April 8, 2004

The following grade distribution will be used in the evaluation of the students' work:

A+	=	91-100%	C+	=	65-69%
A	=	85-90%	C	=	60-64%
B+	=	80-84%	D	=	50-59%
B	=	70-79%	F	=	0-49%

REQUIRED READING

Comack, E. (ed.). 1999. *Locating Law: Race/Class/Gender Connections*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.

Additional readings will be placed on reserve as needed.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating of any kind is strictly prohibited. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Examinations: Personations' (p.28) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (p.29) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

DISRUPTIONS

Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting in large classes. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption will result in debarment from the course. If you have a legitimate reason for leaving the room early, please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class.

WITHDRAWAL

Last day for voluntary withdrawal from this course without academic penalty is **March 17, 2004**.

MISSED TESTS

If a test is missed for legitimate medical reasons the student must contact the instructor prior to the test, present their medical certificate, and arrange for a make-up assignment. Failure to contact the instructor in a timely manner and present proper medical documentation will result in ineligibility for a make-up assignment and a mark of zero for that test.

DUE DATES

All due dates specified in the detailed syllabus distributed at the start of classes are final. Assignments and tests must be completed on the specified dates unless arrangements are made in advance with the instructor. Late submissions will not be accepted. Documentation must be provided before any alternate arrangements will be considered. Normally, documentation consists of a letter from a doctor or a copy of a death certificate.

STUDENT USE OF E-MAIL

Please do not send e-mail enquiries unless I can respond quickly in a sentence or two. I will not repeat a lecture by e-mail or compose an essay. I will not e-mail students lecture notes or PowerPoint presentations. I promise to respond to e-mails within one week of their receipt. For a faster response, please see me during my regular office hours or by appointment.

E-mailed assignments are not accepted. If you e-mail me an attachment of any sort, I will delete it without opening it.

All students are entitled to a University of Manitoba e-mail account. I will not be responsible for e-mails sent from any other service provider. Hotmail accounts are particularly bad. Often e-mails or replies sent to this service 'bounce back' undelivered. If you choose to use an external e-mail provider, you do so at your own risk. I will not resend messages that 'bounce back.'

The following is a list of TENTATIVE topics to be covered. This list is subject to revision and change without notice:

- 1) Introduction to the Study of Law and Society
- 2) Theoretical Perspectives: Part I
- 3) Theoretical Perspectives: Part II

- 4) Methodological Considerations
- 5) The Organization and Practice of Law
- 6) Racism and the Law
- 7) Class Interests in the Law
- 8) Gender, Sexuality and the Law
- 9) Law and Morality
- 10) Law and the Construction of Community
- 11) The Language of Law
- 12) Law and Popular Culture