

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
SOCIOLOGY OF LAW
077.370 (3 cr. hrs.) LO1 (Room 213 Tier Bldg.)
Fall, 2005**

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Elizabeth Comack
OFFICE: 323 Isbister
PHONE: 474-9673 (I have voice mail - so leave a message if I'm not there)
OFFICE HOURS: Tues & Thurs, 2:30-3:30 or by appointment
EMAIL ADDRESS: comack@cc.umanitoba.ca
(assignments will **not** be accepted by email).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

As an area of specialization within the discipline, the Sociology of Law is concerned with an examination of the relationship between law and the broader societal context that both shapes and is shaped by the legal order. The aim of this course is to gain an understanding of this law-society relationship. More specifically, our goal will be to “locate” law within the nexus of race, class, and gender relations in society.

COURSE ORGANIZATION AND FORMAT:

The course will be organized into three main sections:

- I. Theoretical Approaches in the Sociology of Law
- II. Locating Law: Historical and Contemporary Issues
- III. The Power to Criminalize: Violence, Inequality and the Law

A more detailed outline of the specific topics and readings to be covered within each area can be found in the Course Outline and Reading List. A Course Timetable is also included at the end of this document. This timetable is designed to allow students to keep up to date with their reading as we progress through the material.

The format of the course will consist of a combination of lectures and class/group discussions. Videos and guest speakers will be used where appropriate. Students are expected to attend class, keep up with the assigned readings, participate in discussions, and submit their assignments on time. *Anyone experiencing difficulty fulfilling any of these expectations is encouraged to consult with the professor.*

REQUIRED READING:

The following books are available for purchase at the U of M bookstore:

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

E. Comack and G. Balfour. 2004. *The Power to Criminalize: Violence, Inequality and the Law*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.

In addition, several readings have been placed on reserve in the Dafoe Library.

GRADING AND EVALUATION;

Evaluation of students will be based on the following:

Assignment #1	due during class time on Tuesday, October 18th	20%
In-class test	held on Tuesday, November 1st	30%
Assignment #2	due during class time on Tuesday, December 6th	30%
In-class test	held on Tuesday, December 6th	20%

The in-class tests will consist of essay-type questions. Students are expected to write the tests during class time on the dates indicated. Those missing a test due to illness will be required to provide a doctor's note.

Students are expected to submit their writing assignments by the dates specified above. Anyone encountering difficulties meeting these dates for *legitimate* reasons should contact the professor as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements. *Assignments that are submitted after the due date without good reason will be penalized **one mark** for each overdue day.* Further information on the writing assignments can be found later in this document.

In assigning letter grades for the course, the following scale will be used:

A+	90% and over
A	80 - 85%
B+	75 - 79%
B	70 - 74%
C+	65 - 69%
C	60 - 64%
D	50 - 59%
F	less than 50%

Students should acquaint themselves with the University policy on "examinations; personations" (page 26) and "plagiarism and cheating" (pages 27-28) found in the *University of Manitoba 2005-2006 Undergraduate Calendar*.

Every effort will be made to provide students with sufficient feedback on their course work. Students who are encountering difficulties with the course material or assignments are encouraged to consult with the professor.