

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY OF LAW
Sociology 3700 A01
(Term 2, 2010, 3 Credit Hours)
Slot 8, 1:30 – 2:20 PM, M, W, F
301 Tier

Instructor: Andrew Woolford
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Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:30-4:00PM
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Course Objectives:

In this course we undertake a critical sociological investigation of the law. We begin with an overview of the origins of the sub-discipline of the sociology of law, tracing the tradition back to the works of Durkheim, Marx and Weber. Next, we examine prominent socio-legal theories, as well as empirical studies of law and culture, ethnicity and law, the professionalization of law, law and governmentality, international law, and the politics of law, among others. General questions framing this course include: What is the role of power in the creation and application of law? What is the role of law within liberal democratic societies? Can law be both a source of inequality and a source of protection against inequality? In what sense is law both based upon and a constitutive part of culture? What does the growing “empire” of law mean for processes of globalization?

Required Readings:

Mathieu Deflem. 2008. *Sociology of Law: Visions of a Scholarly Tradition*. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.

Elizabeth Comack (editor). 2006. *Locating Law: Race/Class/Gender/Sexuality Connections* (second edition). Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.

Assignments and Grades:

Participation:	15 %
In-class midterm:	20%
Critical Reflection Writing Assignments:	2 x 20% = 40%
Take Home Final Exam:	25%

Class Participation (15%): In-class participation will be a prominent component of this class. On pre-specified days, students will be divided into small working groups and assigned the task of discussing critical questions related to the sociology of law and producing a brief written summary of student responses. A group mark will be given for each assignment. Students must

provide a medical note if they miss class and require a make-up assignment. I also reserve the right to lower the participation grades of students who regularly miss lectures. Higher participation grades will go to those students who both do well in the discussion groups and contribute to regular classroom discussion.

In general, it should be noted that attendance is required for this class. More than five unexcused absences will result in the student being debarred from taking the final examination and handing in the final paper.

Midterm (20%): An in class midterm will be held on February 10. The test will consist of four paragraph-length questions (selected from a list of five options) and a short argumentative essay.

(Note: if a test is missed, students are required to contact the professor prior to test time and must submit a medical note within one week of the test date; otherwise, a grade of zero will be assigned.)

Critical Reflection Writing Assignments: (2 x 20% = 40%):

On February 26 and April 7 students are required to hand in 6-8 pages of critical reflections on the assigned readings. A minimum of 4 issues -- whether theoretical perspectives, concepts, or matters of empirical concern -- should be discussed (1½ to 2 pp per issue) within each writing assignment. A more detailed handout describing this assignment will be distributed in class.

Take Home Final:

On April 9 a take-home exam of 4 questions will be distributed in class. Students are required to write critical and argumentative essays on 2 of the 4 questions. Take home exams must be handed in no later than April 16.

Academic Integrity: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Personation at Examination' (Section 4.2.8) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (Section 7.1) found in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar.

Grading:

Cut-off points for converting percentage grades into letter grades:

A+: 100- 90%	A: 89-80%	B+: 79-75%	B: 74-70%
C+: 69-65%	C: 64-60%	D: 59 - 50%	F: below 50%

Course Outline:

Week 1 [Jan 8-11]: Introduction to the Sociology of Law
Deflem: Intro (pp. 1-8) and Chapter 1

Week 2 [Jan 13-18]: Weber and the Rationalization of Law
Deflem: Chapter 2

Week 3 [Jan 20-25]: Durkheim, Law and Social Solidarity
Deflem: Chapter 3; Comack: pp. 18-42

Week 4 [Jan 27-Feb 1]: Conflict and Criticisms in the Sociology of Law
Deflem: Chapter 6; Comack: pp. 42-67

Week 5 [Feb 3-8]: Women and Law
Comack: pp. 234-284

Week 6 [Feb 12-24]: Law and Economy
Deflem: Chapter 7

Week 7 [Feb 26-March 3]: Law and Class
Comack: pp. 152-205

Week 8 [March 5-10]: Law and Politics
Deflem: Chapter 8

Week 9 [March 12-17]: Law's Professionals
Deflem: Chapter 9

Week 10 [March 19-24]: Law and Culture
Deflem: Chapter 10

Week 11 [March 26-31]: Aboriginal Peoples and the Law
Comack: pp 73-90 and 123-144

Week 12 [Apr 2-7]: Law and Social Control
Deflem: Chapter 11

Voluntary withdrawal deadline is March 19, 2010.