Sociology of Law Soc 370, (Section 001)
Department of Sociology and Legal Studies, University of Waterloo (Winter 2012)

Instructor: Dr. C. Barry McClinchey
Meeting Time: Tuesdays 10:30 am to 12:20pm
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Required Texts:
2. Additional readings as assigned during course lectures and discussions.

Course Description: This course is a sociology course focused on law and society. As such, it will focus on sociological theory and research as explanations of aspects of legal systems and institutions. This course examines the social construction of law and its administration as a social process. Topics will include: law as an instrument of social control and social change; legal culture; the identification and evaluation of criminal suspects; the trial process and the rights of special groups. The specific laws highlighted will vary.

It is expected that all students will complete the required readings. **Students are responsible for attending all scheduled classes and recording notes that reflect class discussions and lecture topics.** The mid-term examination, the course project assignments and the final exam will be set on the assumption that the required readings as well as the required selections from the text have been read. All topics discussed in class may be the subject of assignment requirements, or examination question items.

This course is recognized as a PACS Content Course that fulfills requirements in the interdisciplinary Peace and Conflict Studies plan. For information about doing a PACS concentration (Major, Minor or Option) visit: http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/academic/undergrad/pacs/plans.shtml.

Sociology 370 Evaluation and assessment: course review tests, assignments and final examination.

| Course Assignment#1: Tuesday January 17, 2012. | 10% |
| Mid Term: Tuesday February 14, 2012. | 25% |
| Assignment #2: Tuesday March 6, 2012. | 15% |
| Final Examination (Date and time to be determined.) | 50% |

**Mid Term Examination:**
The Mid Term Examination will cover all assigned readings, class discussions and lecture topics up to the date of the class prior to the date of the test. It will be short-answer essay in format.

**Course Assignments:**
There will be two required course assignments which will described on assignment instruction sheets distributed and discussed in class. The instructions and expectations for each assignment will be outlined on the assignment sheets. It is expected that students will consult, as necessary, with the Teaching Assistant during the process of completing the required assignments.

**Final Examination:**
The final examination will consist of short essay type questions and will cover the entire scope of the topics discussed in class and in the assigned readings.
Please take note of the following:

1. A penalty of ½ letter grade per day will be assigned for late assignments.

2. In the event that changes to the above assignments and due dates become necessary, the issue will be announced during class sessions.

3. All in-course work must be submitted before the scheduled final examination.

4. The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar's office. It is the responsibility of students to be available for the time and dates of the in-class review tests and the final examination.

5. Academic Integrity: in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

   **Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm)

   **Grievance:** “Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to policy #70, Student Grievance, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/policy70.html.”

   **Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm)

   "Note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p.1:11). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."

   **Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm)

6. The course Mid-Term Examination is to be written during the scheduled class meeting time according the course outline. It is the student’s responsibility to be present and complete the Mid Term Examination on the scheduled date and time.

Outline of Lecture Topics and Readings

**Lecture One: Tuesday January 3, 2012.**

Major legal systems.
Conceptualization of law
Types of law
Functions of law in society

**Lecture Two: Tuesday January 10, 2012.**

Paradigms of society.
Dysfunctions of law.
Evolution of legal systems.
Primitive Legal System
Transitional Legal System
Modern Legal System.


**Lecture Three: Tuesday January 17, 2012. Assignment #1 is due.**

Theories of Law and Society.
Sociological Perspectives and the Law
Feminist Legal Theory and Critical Race Theory


**Lecture Four: Tuesday January 24, 2012.**

Courts:
Dispute categories
The organization of courts
Participants in the court process


**Lecture Five: Tuesday January 31, 2012.**

Restorative Justice Approaches
The organization, functions and responsibilities of law enforcement agencies in Canada.


**Lecture Six: Tuesday February 7, 2012.**

Perspectives on lawmaking
Administrative lawmaking
Lawmaking by precedents
Statutes
Sources of law:
Public interest groups
Social movements
Mass media

Tuesday February 14, 2012.  Mid-Term Examination

Reading Week February 20 to February 24

Lecture Seven:  Tuesday February 28, 2012.
Law as formal and informal social control.
Law and Dispute Resolution
Community Justice Initiatives


Lecture Eight:  Tuesday March 6, 2012.  Assignment #2 is due.
Law and Social Change
The legal profession.


Legal services for the poor and not-so-poor.


Researching Law and Society
Sociological analysis of legal systems


Lecture Eleven:  Tuesday March 27, 2012.
Global differences in law and society

Overall review of the course.

Required Reading:  Vago, Steven and Nelson, Adie.  Law and Society, Pearson, Prentice Hall, Toronto.  2008:

Final Exam Date and Time will be set by the Registrar’s Office.