

Law and Society
SOCI 435
Spring 2017
T,Th 2:00-3:20 SS 344

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Office Hours: T,Th 1-1:50; W 2-2:50; by appt

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Student Learning Goals

- ❖ Explain and describe characteristics of law and legal systems as a social institution;
- ❖ Explain and describe the role of social inequalities in law and legal systems;
- ❖ Employ sociological theories to understand current and historical issues related to law and legal systems;
- ❖ Analyze and assess research literature including primary source research materials related to law and legal systems.

Course Requirements

- ❖ Please note that upper division courses expect you to do about 3 hours of outside class work for every in-class hour.
- ❖ Please do the week's assigned reading ahead of the Tuesday class meeting. We will be drawing from:
 - Barkan, Steven E. 2009. *Law and Society: An Introduction*. New York: Routledge. 978-0-13-194660-6
 - Occasional articles posted to Moodle
- ❖ Most of the in-class time will be devoted to lecture and discussion. You are expected to attend class regularly and discuss the issues we cover in class. I will take roll on a random basis. If you are hesitant to talk in class, please make use of our office hours. For every day you are absent when we take roll, you will lose two points from the attendance grade.
- ❖ We will have one "objective" midterm and one "objective" final exam, each worth about 40 points, or 27% of the grade. Please note that some of the questions will resemble those on the Multistate Bar Exam in form, but not in content. See <http://barprephero.com>. The second half of the class will be more challenging than the first half, so if you do poorly on the first exam, but show improvement on the final, I will take that into consideration in assigning your final grade.
- ❖ A theory and application paper will be due the 14th week of class, and will be worth approximately 1/3 of the final grade.

Theory and Application Paper, due April 28

You are required to submit a paper in the nature of an exam, 5-10 pages in length, that will focus on a historical or current legal issue that can be analysed in terms of two of the theoretical perspectives we will cover in class. You will choose among several appellate court decisions that I will give you, and find a case taking a position that contradicts the holding. You will then analyse the cases in terms of two of the approaches to law summarized in Chapter 2 of Barkan. This paper will be due on April 28. More information on content and grading will be available in Week 3. Unfortunately, due to the complexity of this assignment

(including our reading of the case you choose), we will probably not have the grading completed until Finals Week.

The Theory and Application paper is due on Moodle Thursday, April 28, by 11:59 p.m.

Grading

Points		Grades (Percentage)	
Attendance	~20	93-100	A
Midterm	40	90-92.5	A-
Final Exam	40	87-89.5	B+
Theory and Application Paper	50	83-86.5	B
Total	~150	80-82.5	B-
		77-79.5	C+
		73-76.5	C
		70-72.5	C-
		67-69.5	D+
		63-66.5	D
		60-62.5	D-
		57 and below	F

Housekeeping Issues

All assignments must be submitted on Moodle. If you have difficulty using this platform, please let me know and we'll go over it together.

Academic Dishonesty: Please make yourself familiar with the library resource on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. (<https://www.umt.edu/writingcenter/docs/resourcesforwriters/usingsources.pdf>) as well as the description of academic misconduct and penalties in the Student Conduct Code, pp. 5-6. The BEST outcome for plagiarized assignments is a zero on the assignment and an opportunity to resubmit. The WORST outcome is expulsion from the University.

Respect: This course covers material that lies at the heart of many contentious debates in public life. All views are welcome. Because your opinion is also valuable, you are allowed and encouraged to express your disagreement. This means that you are encouraged to agree or disagree with any positions taken in the class, but you must do so respectfully. Lively debate is one thing; "trashing" is something else entirely.

Deadlines: Please pay attention to the Registrar's deadlines: <http://www.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/OfficialDatesDeadlinesSpring2017.pdf> May 5 at 5 p.m. is the last day to drop a class or change grading option.

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2017 Spring Calendar

Week 1: Introduction to Course: Nuremberg Trials

Reading: Barkan, Chapter 1

Week 2: What is Law?

Reading: Barkan, Chapter 2

Week 3: Types of Law

Reading: Barkan, Chapter 3

Week 4: Research for Paper

Reading: Explore Blewett Law Library Website <http://www.umt.edu/law/library/>
Law Library Training

Week 5: Law and Dispute Processing

Reading: Barkan, Chapter 4

Week 6: Social Control

Reading: Barkan Chapter 5

Thursday: Paper topic due on Moodle, no later than 11:59 p.m.

Week 7: Exam 1

Tuesday: Review

Thursday: Exam

Week 8: Law and Social Change, pt. 1: The Road to Brown

Reading: Barkan, Chapter 6

Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10: Social Change, pt. 2

Reading: Review Barkan, Chapter 6

Week 11: Law & Inequality, pt 1 : My Lai Massacre and Lieutenant Calley

Reading: Barkan, Chapter 7

Week 12: Law & Inequality, pt. 2

Reading: Review Barkan, Chapter 7

Week 13: Legal Profession

Reading: Barkan, Chapter 8

Week 14: Courts and Juries

Reading: Barkan, Chapter 9

Theory and Application paper is due on Moodle Thursday, April 28, by 11:59 p.m.

Week 15: Review

Final Exam: 1:10pm-3:10pm, Wednesday, May 10