

CJ 430.03 LAW AND SOCIETY
College of Criminal Justice
Sam Houston State University
FALL 2007

Professor: Debra D. Moore, JD
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Class Time: Monday-Wednesday-Friday: 9:00 to 9:50 am
Classroom: CJC 104
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. and
BY APPOINTMENT

REQUIRED TEXT:

Friedrichs, David O. (2006). *Law in Our Lives: An Introduction*. Second Edition, Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury Publishing Company.

** Handouts may be distributed during any class. They are required reading.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“Law is all over. Law is everywhere. Law is an enduring presence in our lives.” (Friedrichs) This course is designed to explore and examine the nature, functions, objectives and limitations of the law. A vast amount of time will be allotted to critically evaluate and discuss the theoretical and practical perspectives of law. The organization of law, the perspectives of lawmaking, and how law is utilized as a social change mechanism will be analyzed.

Attention will also be given to reviewing the legal profession and its connection with the rise and development of legal systems. Lastly, the course will take a look at how law can be researched to better our sociological understanding of law, society and social policy.

Class sessions will be conducted according to a lecture-discussion format. Students will actually lead certain discussions as directed by the professor. It is crucial that students come to class prepared having read the required material for the class and having completed any other tasks or assignments that are required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To gain a better understanding as to how law is conceptualized both by lawyers and sociologists.
- To critically evaluate the purpose of law as both a reactor to social change and how one can become an initiator of change.
- Gain a general understanding of the multifaceted aspects of the legal profession.
- The origins and models of law will be explored.
- Development a framework as to how predilections, prejudices and emotions influence the law.
- Determine the interdisciplinary affects of law, sociology, psychology and philosophy.
- Discover how law relates to justice, morality, and religion.
- Gain a better understanding of the key terms and concepts of the law

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

You will be evaluated throughout the semester on the following work:

- A. **Three Exams** (70%)
- B. **Two Special Projects** (20%)
- C. **Class Participation** (10%)

Exams:

Each exam will vary in length; however there will be no less than twenty (20) and no more than fifty (50) questions. The exams will be made up of multiple-choice, short answer questions and/or fill in the blank. At the professor's discretion, students MAY be allowed to use their OWN notes but the Textbook or a replica thereof may never be used. You MAY NOT use any electronic gadgets, including but not limited to your laptop, palm pilot, blackberry, etc. Exams are cumulative; however they will primarily cover the unit most recently completed in class.

Make-up Exams:

None! As a general rule, there will be **NO** make up exams. Students who are certain they have a “legitimate” excuse should set up a conference immediately following the missed exam bringing supporting documentation of their “legitimate” excuse.

One Written Project: (15%)

The Students will be divided into groups. A group written project will be turned in representative of the entire group. Each student must contribute to the overall project. A signature page consisting of all contributing students to the assignment must accompany the project.

In order to gain a general understanding of the multifaceted aspects of law and society, Friday’s will be designed for students to personally research and observe legal proceedings and societal issues.

Legal: Know all pertinent information regarding the Justices of The United States Supreme Court and personally observe local legal proceedings. These proceedings are to include the following: 1)Traffic Court 2) Misdemeanor Trial/Proceeding 3) State Trial /Proceeding and 4)Federal Trial/Proceeding.

Social: Research the current political and prevalent positions of the following: 1)Immigration 2)Euthanasia/Assisted death suicide 3) Abortion 4)Racial/Gender/Sexual discrimination A minimum of 10-12 hours should be logged and signed by the student and an official i.e., Court official, librarian, minister, politician...

You are to write a scholarly and comprehensive paper of your research and personal observations. The paper is designed to get the students to think about societal influences on the law and incorporate issues discussed in class. The paper should be **no more** than four (4) FULL pages, typed, and double-spaced. Additional directives will follow.

All papers submitted for these assignments become the property of the professor and will not be returned. Projects turned in after the due date will be marked down one letter grade.

One Oral Presentation: (5%)

Students are to present their written projects in a group manner to the class. In the alternative, upon approval by the professor, students may be given a topic to research and/or answer two (2) discussion questions located at the end of one of the chapters in the text and write a comprehensive answer/response to the questions. Additional authorities

should be cited to support and reject your position in response to the question. You will then present the question and your response to the class. The instructor will give additional written directives for the oral presentation project.

Class Participation:

This class requires that you assume an active role in the learning process. Everyone is expected to complete all reading assignments within the time frames set forth in the Class Schedule. Students will also be randomly selected to lead class discussions based on the reading assignments and current events. Sometimes you will be given a list of current event topics and/or questions to research and be prepared to present on the following class session. The professor will maintain a record of your participation.

The instructor will place students into groups and facilitate discussions on a variety of topics including current events and specific text topics. National publications are a great resource to stay on top of current issues. Students are encouraged to be open and honest regarding their perspectives of the subject matter. It is imperative that all students conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful to the opinions of others.

Video presentations will be shown. While the student is not expected to take down pages of notes while the video is playing, key issues and significant segments will be discussed. Exam questions will include video presentations.

Grading Policy:

Exams I	25%
Exam II	25%
Exams III	20%
Special Projects	20%
Class Participation	10%

Final grades will depend on an accumulation of all available points.

90 – 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
Below 60	F

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Please note, a “student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examination or other assigned class work have not been missed; however, a student **may be penalized for more than three hours of absences** at the discretion of the instructor.”

The professor would hope that all students in the College of Criminal Justice respect the College, the University at-large and timely report to class. Those students not in class are responsible for materials discussed during the missed session.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html1#dishonesty>

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion—the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials and misrepresentation of credentials and accomplishments as a member of the college.

DISABLED STUDENTS POLICY:

<http://www.shsu.edu/schedule/>

SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY:

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Students are welcome to record any material presented during class lectures and/or discussions. This recorded material may not be transcribed or copied for distribution without first securing the written permission of the professor.

Laptop computers may be used in class for note-taking purposes, but WILL NOT be accessible during exams.

Any electronic telecommunications devices should be set to “silent” mode or turned off prior to the beginning of each class session. If you require the use of one of these devices, please inform the professor, and please leave the classroom prior to

initiating use. Instant Messaging and/or Text Messaging should not be engaged in during class.

NO CELL PHONES, PAGERS, TOBACCO PRODUCTS OR FIREARMS ARE ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM. If you need to have a cell phone or pager for an emergency situation, let the professor know PRIOR to class.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK OF:

August 20, 2007 Course Introduction, Review of Text, Overview of Syllabus and Let's Get Acquainted. Introduction of Chapter One

August 27, 2007 Chapter 1: **Introduction**
The Critique of Law
Current Issues before the Law

September 3, 2007 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

September 5, 2007 **Current Event Group Discussions** (Topics to be determined by Instructor)

September 7, 2007 Chapter 2: **Law: Its Meaning and Logic**

September 10, 2007 VIDEO PRESENTATION

September 17, 2007 Chapter 3: **Law, Justice, and the Moral Order**

September 24, 2007 **Current Event Group Discussions** (Topics to be determined by Instructor)

September 26, 2007 Chapter 4: **Jurisprudence and the Study of Law**

October 1, 2007 ***** Exam I - Chapters 1-4 *****

October 3, 2007 **Current Event Group Discussions** (Topics to be determined by Instructor)

October 8, 2007 VIDEO PRESENTATION

October 15, 2007 Chapter 5: **The Law and Society Movement**

October 22, 2007 **Current Event Group Discussions** (Topics to be determined by Instructor)

October 29, 2007 Chapter 7: **The Legal Profession**

November 5, 2007 ***** Exam II - Chapters 5, 7, & 8 *****

November 7, 2007 Chapter 9: *Legal Culture and Legal Behavior*
Law as Product: The Making of Laws
Law as Communication

November 12, 2007 Chapter 10: *Law in Flux: Law and Social Change*
Oral Projects

November 19, 2007 **Current Event Group Discussions** (Topics to be determined by Instructor)

November 21, 22, 23 - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

December 3, 2007 Oral Projects

December 10, 2007 FINAL EXAMINATION WEEK