POL SCI 250 – Law and Society

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Fall 2014)

Instructor: Prof. Erin B. Kaheny
Office: Bolton Hall 638
Office Phone: TBA
E-mail: ekaheny@uwm.edu
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 1-2 pm

Teaching Assistant (TA): Ahmed Teleb
Office: Bolton Hall 687
E-mail: arteleb@uwm.edu
Office Hours: Monday, 2-3 pm

CLASS MEETING TIMES: MW 11:00-12:15, Bolton (BOL) B60

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course provides a broad overview of American legal traditions, institutions, and processes. Topics examined in the course include: the nature and organization of law, legal theory, and the role of courts, judges, juries, and lawyers. Moreover, we will examine contemporary debates in law and society involving issues of race, gender, medicine, and corporations.

REQUIRED BOOK (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE UWM BOOKSTORE):

CLASS REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:

General Class Conduct
I seek to create a classroom environment which is marked by mutual respect. At all times, I expect students to conduct themselves in a highly professional and courteous manner. Please do not arrive late, leave early, or talk while the instructor is talking or a classmate has the floor. Significant deductions will be applied to the course participation grades of those students who leave class early, arrive late, or disrupt class discussion in any way. Please note that students who spend class time surfing the Internet, text messaging, or reading outside materials, etc. will also receive significant deductions on the participation component of their course grades.

If you need to leave a class early, or if you know that you will be late, please inform me in advance whenever possible.
The use of cell phones in this class will not be tolerated. Please silence the ringer of your cell phone prior to entering the classroom. Video or audio recordings of the class are not permitted without the permission of the instructor.

Please make sure you check our course D2L Web site on a regular basis. I will post any changes to our reading schedule along with any special announcements on the site. In addition, the site might include discussion forums so that students can extend debate and discussion beyond the classroom.

Exams
There will be two exams in this course – a mid-term exam and a final exam. Both exams will be closed book and will include multiple choice and true/false questions. Students will be provided with Scantron forms. Please bring a #2 pencil to the exams.

Students will have two options with respect to the final exam, with both options presented to students at the time of the scheduled final. Students may take either:

1) a noncumulative final exam, covering only material presented in the assigned readings and/or in class since the mid-term exam, which will count for 35% of the student’s overall grade OR
2) a cumulative final exam (hereafter, comprehensive final exam) covering material presented in the assigned readings and/or in class throughout the entire semester. The results of this exam will constitute 70% of the student’s overall grade in the course.

Students who miss the mid-term exam must take the comprehensive final examination. Moreover, any student who is dissatisfied with his or her performance on the mid-term will have the opportunity to drop their mid-term score and take the comprehensive final exam in lieu of a noncumulative final. Any student who exercises this option and who submits a comprehensive final exam to the instructor or TA agrees that the comprehensive final exam score will count for 70% of their overall grade and that their score on the mid-term exam (if applicable) will not count toward their overall grade. No separate make-up exam will be administered for the mid-term.

A make-up exam will be administered to students who are unable to attend class on the date of the final exam due to a medical excuse, University-excused absence, or other reasonable excuse (as determined by me). Students, however, must contact me (by phone or e-mail) prior to the scheduled exam. If a student cannot contact me prior to the exam due to extenuating circumstances, the student is required to contact me within 24 hours after the missed exam. If approved, I will arrange a time for a (final) make-up exam to be administered to the student.

Exams will not be given prior to the scheduled date to any student (no exceptions).

Legal Research Assignment
A legal research assignment will be distributed to students (and posted on our D2L site) on September 10 and will be due in class on September 24. The assignment is required to be typed, and students are not to collaborate on the assignment. If you need help with the assignment, please consult the instructor or the teaching assistant.
Critical Essay
Each student will need to submit an essay responding to a question posed by the instructor. A list of essay questions from which you must choose will be posted on our D2L site by October 1. Your response to one (and only) one of these questions should be about 4-5 typed pages (double-spaced with one-inch margins and a 12-point font).

I expect all students to engage in research for the purposes of this writing assignment. Thus, any reference used in the development of a student’s paper should be cited in the body of the paper using in-text parenthetical citations and quotation marks (if you are directly quoting someone else’s language). APA, MLA, or APSA styles are acceptable, but you should be consistent in the citation style you employ. Each paper must also include a “works cited” list in which the student provides the full citations for the references cited in the body of the paper. By definition, all references in your “works cited” list must be cited in the body of your paper. At least three scholarly works (e.g., books & journal articles) should be cited in your paper.

For writing assistance, please consider making an appointment with a staff member at the UWM Writing Center by phone (229-4339) or on-line (www.writingcenter.uwm.edu). You should also consult the center’s link to a number of writing resources (http://www4.uwm.edu/writingcenter/Resources.htm).

All student essays will be due (in class) on Wednesday, November 19.

Grades
Mid-term exam* 35%
Final exam* 35%
Legal research assignment 5%
Critical Essay 15%
Class participation 10%

*70% of a student’s grade will be determined by the results of the comprehensive final exam if the student ends up taking that exam as opposed to the noncumulative final exam. The results of a student’s mid-term exam will be dropped from the calculation of his or her overall grade if the student takes the comprehensive final.

Point Scale
A 93-100 C 73-76
A- 90-92 C- 70-72
B+ 87-89 D+ 67-69
B 83-86 D 63-66
B- 80-82 D- 60-62
C+ 77-79 F ... -59

Grading Concerns
If you have questions or concerns regarding how an assignment was graded, your first step should be to discuss the issue with the TA during office hours or by appointment. If you are not satisfied after consulting with the TA, you should meet with me during office hours or by appointment, and I will re-grade the assignment. All students who wish to appeal grading matters should do so within one week of
the assignment or exam being returned to the class. All exam-related questions should be (directly) presented to the instructor.

**Extra Credit**
Extra credit opportunities will not be presented to students in this class.

**Academic Misconduct**
I do not tolerate acts of plagiarism or any form of cheating on exams or assignments. Students who are caught engaging in academic misconduct will receive an “F” (zero percentage points) for the assignment or exam. It is also possible that a student who is caught engaging in academic misconduct will receive an “F” for the course. If I suspect a case of academic misconduct, I will follow the academic misconduct and reporting policies of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

**Dropping the Course & Incompletes**
It is your responsibility as a student to determine if you should drop this course and, therefore, you need to be familiar with all relevant drop deadlines (please see UWM calendar for further details). An incomplete may be given to a student who is unable to complete the course requirements due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., serious illness, injury, family emergency, etc.). Supporting documentation will be requested for this purpose.

**Submitting Course Assignments & Late Penalties**
Under most circumstances, I do not accept and will not grade course assignments or any parts thereof submitted via e-mail. Students are required to submit hard copies of all assignments to me directly in class. If you feel your particular circumstances warrant a waiver of this rule, you may contact me (via e-mail) to seek permission to electronically submit an assignment.

Assignments are due in class on the date noted in the syllabus. Any assignment submitted after its due date will be subject to a ten percentage point deduction for each day it is late (including weekends). Assignments submitted after class on the date they are due will be considered one day late. Late work should be handed directly to the instructor whenever possible. Otherwise, students can leave late work in the envelope posted on my office door (Bolton 638), but it is the student’s responsibility to send the instructor (and the TA) e-mail notification of the date and time at which the assignment was submitted and to confirm receipt of the late assignment. Assignments left in the envelope after 5:00 pm will be posted as received the next day. Students should not slide late assignments under my office door or leave them in my departmental box.

**Time Allocation**
This is a three-credit hour class. Students, on average, should expect to spend nine hours a week on activities related to POL SCI 250.
**Student Accommodations**
If you will need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible. Students should also contact an Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) counselor on campus (414) 229-6287.

**Religious Accommodations**
I will follow UWM’s policy regarding the provision of religious accommodations. This policy can be found at: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm

**TOPIC & READING SCHEDULE**
*This reading schedule is subject to change (with possible additions). Changes will be announced in class and posted on D2L. Please note that some readings are available on our D2L Course Page.*

September 3   Introduction to the Course
September 8:  Introduction to the Study of Law and Society – Samuels, pgs. 1-13
September 10: Introduction to the Study of Law and Society - Samuels, pgs. 14-27
September 15: Legal Theory - Samuels, pgs. 28-42
September 17: Legal Theory - Samuels, pgs. 43-56
September 22: The American Legal System - Samuels, pgs. 57-70
September 24: The American Legal System - Samuels, pgs. 70-84
  *Legal research assignment due*
September 29: Law beyond Courts - Samuels, pgs. 194-206, 212-219, and Vago pgs. 122-135 (D2L)
October 1:  Courts and Judicial Selection – Samuels, pgs. 133-154
October 6:  Courts and Judicial Selection – reading TBA
October 20: Lawyers and Legal Education, reading TBA

October 22: **Mid-Term Exam**


October 29: Juries - reading TBA

November 3: Methods of Dispute Resolution - Samuels, pgs. 169-182

November 5: Methods of Dispute Resolution - Samuels, pgs. 182-193 & TBA

November 10: Law, Social Control, & the Police - Samuels, pgs. 243-261

November 12: Racial Inequality & the Law - Samuels, pgs. 265-278

November 17: Racial Inequality & the Law - Samuels, pgs. 278-289

November 19: Sexual Inequality & the Law - Samuels, pgs. 290-301

*Critical essay due*

November 24: Sexual Inequality & the Law - Samuels, pgs. 301-313

November 26: Thanksgiving Break – no classes

December 1: Regulation of Heath Care & Medicine, pgs. 336-355

December 3: Corporate Regulation, pgs. 356-367


December 15: **Final Exam at 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon**