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**Sociology 342**  
**Sociology of Law**

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Professor: Timothy L. O'Brien, Ph.D.  
Location: Bolton Hall B92  
Time: T/R 2:00 - 3:15pm  
Office: Bolton Hall, Room 744  
Office Hours: T/R 3:30- 4:30pm and by appointment  
Phone: (414) 229-5820  
Email: [obrien34@uwm.edu](mailto:obrien34@uwm.edu)

### **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the sociology of law. It will not help you think about society like a lawyer. Instead, it will help you think about law like a sociologist. The sociological perspective provides a unique lens to look beyond individual people and events to identify and analyze wider patterns and deeper meanings. From this perspective, this class examines a range of classical sociological concepts such as organizations, culture, inequality, and social change by analyzing contemporary socio-legal research on issues including reproductive rights, capital punishment, legal professions, and others. This class will not teach you to write contracts, sue your employer, or defend yourself in court. However, this class will make each of these activities more comprehensible and interesting.

### **Course Goals**

The goals of this class are: (1) to familiarize students with theories, concepts, and methods of inquiry in the sociology of law; (2) to provide students with a better understanding of how social structures like race, gender, and social class affect the creation and enforcement of laws; (3) to gain experience identifying and analyzing problems in the sociology of law; (4) to assess the intended and unintended consequences of law; and (5) to critically evaluate the goals and purpose of legal institutions and professions.

### **Course Time Commitment**

As the UW System assumes "that study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours" (UWS ACPS 4), a 3-credit course such as this one will require a minimum of 144 (3 x 48) hours of your time. You may find it necessary to spend additional time on the course; the numbers below only indicate that the course will not require any less of your time. A traditional, face-to-face course such as this requires that you spend a minimum of:

- 37.5 hours in the classroom
- 75 hours preparing for class, which may include reading, note taking, completing minor exercises and assignments, and discussing course topics with classmates and the professor in structured settings
- 31.5 hours preparing for and writing major papers and/or exams

### **Required Texts**

- (1) Lippman, Matthew. 2018. *Law and Society, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. Sage. ISBN: 9781506362274.
- (2) Additional required readings are posted on Canvas in the "Readings" module

*Readings must be completed before the class for which they are assigned.*

## Course Requirements and Evaluation

Students may earn up to 1000 points throughout the semester. Letter grades are assigned according to the usual scale:

- A (1000-930), A- (929-900)
- B+ (899-870), B (869-830), B- (829-800)
- C+ (799-770), C (769-730), C- (729-700)
- D+ (699-670), D (669-600)
- F (<600)

Final grades are based on the following components:

*Attendance and participation.* Regular attendance and active participation is mandatory. It is important for students to attend all class meetings because class activities *will not repeat* what is covered in the readings. Starting in week 2, I will circulate an attendance sheet during each class meeting. It is the student's responsibility to sign the sheet each class. If you need to miss class for any reason, you are responsible for any material covered during the absence (including notes, assignments and announcements). Furthermore, if there is an assignment due on the day you miss, you will not be able to turn it in late without a university-approved excuse.

Please use the space below to record contact information from classmates who you could contact in case of an absence.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Response memos (3 X 50 points each).* Three times this semester, students will write a concise, two to three page double-spaced memo describing the reading(s) for the day and their reactions. Memos are intended to encourage critical thinking and application of class material. Each memo should *concisely* summarize the readings (i.e., one to two paragraphs). However, the majority of the memo should focus on your response to the readings. Did you agree or disagree with the author(s)? Why? Do you see the concepts illustrated in the news, in your personal life, or in your other classes? Simply summarizing the readings is unacceptable. These assignments are meant to help you synthesize class materials and make connections to your own lives and to society more generally. Students will be assigned to Group 1 or Group 2 and each student must turn in response memos on the appropriate due dates listed on the class schedule (see below). The grading rubric for response memos is available on Canvas. Memos must be submitted electronically as a Canvas assignment by the beginning of class on the due date.

### *Annotated Bibliography (50 points)*

To assist students complete their research papers (see below), this assignment will require students to compile a list of citations to books, articles, and chapters they will use in their research papers. Bibliographies must include 8 to 10 scholarly sources. Each citation will be followed by a brief (about 100 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, in other words, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. Annotated bibliographies must be submitted electronically as a Canvas assignment by the beginning of class on the due date. Details for this assignment, including what counts as a "scholarly source" will be posted on Canvas.

*Research Paper (200 points).* Students will write a 6-8 page double-spaced research paper related to a topic we discuss in class. This assignment is designed to allow students to read more deeply

about specific topics in sociology of law that they find interesting. The paper will identify a research question related to the sociology of law and describe the existing sociological literature that answers the question. The paper will be completed in multiple stages due throughout the semester. Students must notify me in writing of their topic by April 2. Annotated bibliographies are due April 16. Paper topics and annotated bibliographies must be submitted electronically as Canvas assignments by the beginning of class on the due date. Final papers are due April 30. Details for this assignment will be posted on Canvas. To receive full credit, **students must submit a paper copy** before the beginning of class on the due date. Papers that not received at that time will be considered late and docked one letter grade for each day they are not received.

*Exams (3 X 200 points each).* Exams will be taken during regularly scheduled class meetings, and will cover class material and assigned readings. Exams may consist of essay and multiple choice questions and each exam will cover only the material covered since the last exam (i.e. they are not cumulative). If you are unable to take an exam during the scheduled time, you need to contact me with a *university documented* excuse prior to the exam. Students who do not do so will receive a 0 and will not be allowed to make up the exam except under the most unusual circumstances.

### **Classroom Expectations**

Regular, enthusiastic participation in discussions and class activities is required of all students. Furthermore, I encourage students to ask questions at any point during lectures, discussions, and other activities. One of the best parts of university life is our ability to discuss important, albeit sometimes sensitive topics from a range of perspectives. Keeping in mind that students come from many different backgrounds, it is necessary to frame contributions to class respectfully; disagreeing with another perspective does not mean it cannot be learned from. Also, as a matter of courtesy to your classmates I ask that cell phones and other electronic devices be turned off or set to silent during class meetings.

### **Laptops, Tablets, Mobile Devices**

Class meetings will demand your full attention. Deep learning requires sustained focus on a single task. Using a computer to take notes or refer to readings in class is acceptable, but if you use your laptop or mobile device to chat, update social media, play games, watch TV, etc., it distracts your classmates and me. If I notice a student who is off task, I will invite them to get back on task. I encourage students to do the same. Feel free to step outside of class to make or take important calls or texts.

### **Incompletes**

I will not provide students with “incompletes” except in the most unusual circumstances.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

We wish to fully include all students in this class. Students who require assistance should contact the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) (<http://uwm.edu/arc/>). ARC will assist students with verification of a disability, as well as identification of appropriate accommodations among other supports. If you will need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course you should schedule an appointment with ARC within the first few weeks of class.

### **Academic Integrity**

This course is part of the University’s academic community and students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of integrity. **Cases of academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated under any circumstance.** Instances of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to University policy. Academically dishonest behavior includes but is not limited to cheating on tests and quizzes, stealing test materials, colluding with classmates or others on assignments, submitting the intellectual work of another as one’s own, or falsely represented oneself or another for attendance or participation grades.

Student academic misconduct procedures are specified in Chapter UWS 14 and Faculty Document No. 1686 and can be found at [http://www4.uwm.edu/acad\\_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm).

### Class Meetings and Assigned Readings

- The names and locations of all assigned readings are provided below. Readings must be completed **before** the class they are assigned.
- Readings marked (Canvas) are available from the “readings” module on Canvas

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading
1	T	1/21	Course Introduction	No reading
	R	1/23	Introduction to sociology of law	Lippman <i>Ch. 1</i>
2	T	1/28	Introduction to sociology of law	Nonet, <i>For Jurisprudential Sociology</i> (Canvas) Black, <i>The Boundaries of Legal Sociology</i> (Canvas) <b>*Response memo due (Group 1)</b>
	R	1/30	Theories of law and society	Lippmann <i>Ch 2</i>
3	T	2/4	Theories of law and society	Sutton, <i>Evolutionary Theories</i> (Canvas) Sutton, <i>Law, Conflict, and the Economy</i> (Canvas)
	R	2/6	Law and politics	Ferree, <i>Resonance and Radicalism: Feminist Framing in the Abortion Debates of the United States and Germany</i> (Canvas)
4	T	2/11	Law and politics	Wald and Calhoun-Brown, <i>Religion and the State</i> (Canvas) <b>*Response memo due (Group 2)</b>
	R	2/13	Organization of law	Lippmann, <i>Ch 3</i>
5	T	2/18	Research methods in sociology of law	Vago <i>Researching in Sociology of Law</i> (Canvas)
	R	2/20	EXAM 1	No reading
6	T	2/25	Lawmaking	Vago, <i>Lawmaking</i>
	R	2/27	Lawmaking	Montini, <i>Gender and Emotion in the Advocacy for Breast Cancer Informed Consent Legislation</i> (Canvas) Grattett, et.al, <i>The Homogenization and Differentiation of Hate Crime Law in the United States, 1978 to 1995</i> (Canvas) <b>*Response memo due (Group 1)</b>
7	T	3/3	Social Control	Lippmann, <i>Ch 9</i>
	R	3/5	Social Control	Foucault, <i>Panopticism</i> (Canvas) <b>Response memo (Group 2)</b>
8	T	3/10	Social Control	Green et al., <i>Governor Ryan's Capital Punishment Moratorium and the Executioner's Confession</i> (Canvas)

	R	3/12	Social Control	Alexander, <i>The New Jim Crow (Canvas)</i> Robinson and Darley, <i>Does Criminal Law Deter? (Canvas)</i> <b>Response memo due (Group 1)</b>
9	T	3/17	SPRING BREAK	No reading
	R	3/19	SPRING BREAK	No reading
10	T	3/24	Dispute resolution	Lippmann, <i>Ch 6</i>
	R	3/26	Dispute resolution	Gallanter, <i>Why the 'Haves' Come out Ahead (Canvas)</i> <b>*Response memo due (Group 2)</b>
11	T	3/31	No Class—Prof. O’Brien to Denison University for Ronneberg lecture series	No reading
	R	4/2	EXAM 2	No reading <b>*Research paper topics due</b>
12	T	4/7	Social Change	Lippmann, <i>Ch 10</i>
	R	4/9	Social Change	Sutton, <i>Voting Rights and School Desegregation (Canvas)</i>
13	T	4/14	Social Change	McCann, <i>Reform Litigation on Trial (Canvas)</i>
	R	4/16	Social Change	Sutton, <i>Equal Employment Opportunity (Canvas)</i> <b>*Annotated bibliographies due</b>
14	T	4/21	Judicial Decision Making	Edelman et al. <i>When Organizations Rule: Judicial Deference to Institutionalized Employment Structures (Canvas)</i>
	R	4/23	The Legal Profession	Lippmann, <i>Ch 4</i>
15	T	4/28	The Legal Profession	Sutton, <i>The Transformation of Legal Practice (Canvas)</i>
	R	4/30	The Legal Profession	Gorman, <i>Gender Stereotypes, Same-Gender Preferences, and Organizational Variation in the Hiring of Women: Evidence from Law Firm (Canvas)</i> <b>*Research papers due</b>
16	T	5/5	The Legal Profession	Erlanger, et al, <i>Law Student Idealism and Job Choice: Some New Data on an Old Question (Canvas)</i>
	R	5/7	EXAM 3	No reading

Summary of Key Dates	
Memo 1 due (Group 1)	1/28
Memo 1 due (Group 2)	2/11
Exam 1	2/20
Memo 2 due (Group 1)	2/27
Memo 2 due (Group 2)	3/5
Memo 3 due (Group 1)	3/12
Memo 3 due (Group 2)	3/26
Exam 2	4/2
Topic for research paper due	4/2
Bibliographies for research papers due	4/16
Research papers due	4/30
Exam 3	5/7

## UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that page is: [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news\\_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf)

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.** In the pursuit of equal access and in compliance with state and federal laws, the University is required to provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is expected that a statement be placed on your syllabus informing students to contact you to arrange needed accommodations. A sample syllabus statement can be found here: <https://uwm.edu/arc/wpcontent/uploads/sites/97/2015/08/Recommended-Syllabus-Statement.pdf>.

**Religious Observances.** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm>

**Students called to active Military Duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following: <https://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/>

**Incompletes.** You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following: [https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S\\_31\\_INCOMPLETE\\_GRADES.pdf](https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf)

**Discriminatory Conduct** (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: [https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S\\_47\\_Discrimina\\_duct\\_Policy.pdf](https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina_duct_Policy.pdf)

**Academic Misconduct.** Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following: <https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/>

**Complaint Procedures.** Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at: [https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S\\_47\\_Discrimina\\_duct\\_Policy.pdf](https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina_duct_Policy.pdf)

**Grade Appeal Procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the sociology department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at:

<https://uwm.edu/letters-science/advising/answers-forms/policies/appeal-procedure-for-grades>

Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at

<https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/appealing-academic-decisions/>

**Final Examination Policy.** Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following:

<http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm>

**Book Royalties.** In accord with Department of Sociology policy, the royalties from the sale of faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities for UWM students in Sociology.

Update 08/2018