

**University of Toronto, Sociology
SOC293H1F - Sociology of Law
Professor Ronit Dinovitzer
May/June 2019
Mondays and Wednesday, 10:00-12:00pm
Sidney Smith Hall – 100 St. George Street – Room 2111**

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dinovitzer Ronit
Email address: ronit.dinovitzer@utoronto.ca
Office hours: Wednesday, 12:00pm-1:00pm; Room 344, Dept. of Sociology, 725 Spadina Avenue
Quercus/Course web site: q.utoronto.ca

Teaching Assistant(s):

TBA
Email:

Course Description

This course asks students to think critically about the role of law in society, and to develop a sociological understanding of law and legal institutions. The course will include theoretical approaches to understanding the role of law and legal authority, and the constitutive ways in which law affects, shapes, and is negotiated in everyday life. In addition, attention will be paid to the legal profession, including empirical research on lawyers, legal careers, and their relationship to fields of practice, with an emphasis on the relationship between the structure of the legal profession and law as a democratic institution.

Goals and Learning Objectives

The goal of this course is not to focus on specific laws or cases, but instead to study law as an institution that both influences and is influenced by social relations. A main objective of the course is to connect conceptual understandings of law with empirical research on law “in action.”

Prerequisite

The prerequisite to take this course is 0.5 Introduction to Sociology. Students without this requirement will be removed at any time discovered and without notice.

Textbooks and Other Materials

The course relies on a collection of readings compiled by the instructor and available on Quercus.

Evaluation Components

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Date(s) Due</u>	<u>Weight</u>
a. Essay 1	3-4 pages, TBA	22-May	37.5%
c. Essay 2	3-4 pages, TBA	5-June	37.5%
d. Test 1	In class, 1 hour 50 minutes	12-June	25%

Essays (37.5% each)

Each essay assignment will ask you to apply course material to a current problem or issue. The essays will be based on class lectures and readings. You will receive further details during the term.

The essay must be handed to the instructor in hard copy at the start of class and electronically via Quercus. The instructor and TA will NOT accept electronic copies of assignments via email. Do not put submissions under the office door of the instructor. The instructor is not responsible for student assignments submitted in this way. Students must always keep an extra hard copy of their assignment for their own records.

All assignments must be uploaded to Quercus/Turnitin.com in plain text format.

Essays should NOT be submitted using the Quercus mobile app. You are responsible for ensuring your essay was successfully submitted to Quercus. You will receive a 0 if your essay is not successfully submitted to Quercus. I recommend taking a screenshot of your successful submission on Quercus so if you have any trouble you can refer to this submission notification.

This link explains how to be sure you submitted your assignment successfully:

<https://qstudents.utoronto.ca/submitting-assignments-to-your-course/>

Procedures and Rules

1. Missed tests

Students who miss a test will receive a mark of zero; UNLESS within 48 hours (two days) of the missed test, students who wish to write the make-up test give their TA a written request for special consideration which explains why the test was missed, accompanied by proper documentation from a physician or college registrar (see below). A request should be accompanied by contact information (the student's telephone number and email address) so the date, time and place of the make-up test can be communicated to the student. A student who misses a test and the subsequent make-up test for a valid reason will not have a third chance to take the test. Instead, the grade assigned for the missed test will be the same as the grade the student earns for the other test in this course.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FROM YOUR PHYSICIAN OR COLLEGE REGISTRAR

If you miss a test or a paper deadline, do not contact the instructor or a TA unless you have followed the steps described here. Telling the professor or TA why you missed a deadline or a test will not be considered.

- In case of illness, you must supply a duly completed Verification of Student Illness or Injury form (available at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). A doctor's note is acceptable but MUST indicate the start and anticipated end of the illness. The form/note must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted with your work at class or to your TA during their office hours.
- If a personal or family crisis prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is a good idea anyway to advise your college registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies). The letter must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted with your work at class or to your TA during their office hours.

2. Missed Assignments

To request accommodation for a **late assignment** you must present your case to the TA via email.

- In order not to be considered late, assignments must be submitted by the due date on the syllabus via Quercus and in hard copy at the beginning of class.
- You are expected to keep a back-up, hard copy of your assignment in case it is lost.
- For lateness *beyond your control*, the documentation must indicate that you were unable to engage in school work *on the due date of the assignment* for a ONE day extension. For a longer extension you must prove that you were unable to engage in school work for a longer period or prove an exceptional, unforeseen circumstance. In the unlikely event that your documentation indicates that you are too ill to make-up an assignment within the term, you must petition the office of the registrar for an extension of time to complete term work.
- Late assignments for reasons that are *within your control* will be penalized **5%** marks per day. The penalty will run from the day the assignment was due until the day it is

submitted via Quercus not the department office staff, to other instructors or by email. You are still required to submit a hard copy at the next class; the electronic copy must be identical to the hard copy submitted). The penalty period does include weekends and holidays. Assignments that are more than 5 days late will not be accepted.

Grade appeals

Instructors and teaching assistants take the marking of assignments very seriously, and will work diligently to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Nonetheless, mistakes and oversights occasionally happen. If you believe that to be the case, you must adhere to the following rules:

- If it is a mathematical error simply alert the TA of the error.
- In the case of more substantive appeals, you must:
 1. Wait at least 24 hours after receiving your mark.
 2. Carefully re-read your assignment, all assignment guidelines and marking schemes and the grader's comments.
 3. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark beyond the course instructor. In order to meet this deadline, you must inquire about the mark with your instructor no longer than 15 days after receiving your mark. If you are not satisfied with the instructor's re-evaluation, you may appeal to the Associate Chair, if the term work is worth at least 20% of the course mark. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark.

If you wish to appeal:

- A. You must submit to the instructor a written explanation of why you think your mark should be altered. Please note statements such as "I need a higher grade to apply to X" are not compelling. Also, please note that upon re-grade your mark may go down, stay the same, or go up.
- B. Attach to your written explanation your original assignment, including all of the original comments. Submit a hardcopy of the package to the instructor in class, or scan all documents and submit via email to your TA.

Communication

Email communication is rapid, convenient, and efficient—and you are encouraged to use it to enhance your learning and experience in the course. With that said, it is essential that you follow a few rules:

- Assignments will not be accepted via email. See above for how to submit them.
- All course communication should be conducted through Quercus or your utoronto account.
- All emails must include the course code (e.g., SOC 293) in the subject line.
- All emails should be signed with the student's full name and student number.
- Emails from students will generally be answered within 72 hours of receipt.
- Treat emails as you would any other professional communication.
- Emails that ask questions that are answered in the course syllabus or website (e.g., "how much is assignment X worth") will not receive a response.

Emails that do not follow these guidelines will not receive a response.

Classroom etiquette

- Students are expected to arrive at class on time and to use laptops only for note-taking or in class polls. Other uses (e.g., emailing, web surfing) will result in the student's being required to turn off the laptop, and not to bring it to future sessions of the course.
- Videotaping and recording lectures is strictly forbidden without written permission from the instructor.

Academic integrity

Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. Know where you stand by reading the "Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters" in the Calendar of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. Assignments not submitted through Turnitin will receive a grade of zero (0 %), unless a student instead provides, along with their position paper, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submit is truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via Turnitin) is in place because, strictly speaking, using Turnitin is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

Attendance

While attendance is not formally required, students are responsible for all material covered in class and in the assignment readings.

Student resources

Accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated.

Course Schedule

Every attempt will be made to follow this schedule, but it is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

1) May 6: Introduction

- Sutton, John. 2001. Excerpt from Chapter 1, "An Introduction to the Sociology of Law." Pp. 8-13 in *Law/Society: Origins, Interactions, and Change*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge. (Read from the heading "Law from a Sociological Perspective" and stop at "Law as an Institution.") <http://knowledge.sagepub.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/view/law-society/n1.xml>

2) May 8: Theories #1: Marx

- O'Grady, B. & Gaetz, S. & Buccieri, K. "Tickets ... and More Tickets: A Case Study of the Enforcement of the Ontario Safe Streets Act." *Canadian Public Policy*, vol. 39 no. 4, 2013, pp. 541-558. <http://muse.jhu.edu.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/article/534407>
- Western, Bruce and Becky Pettit. 2002. "Beyond Crime and Punishment: Prisons and Inequality." *Contexts* 1:37-43. <http://ctx.sagepub.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/content/1/3/37.full.pdf+html>

3) May 13: Theories #2: Durkheim

- Excerpt, read 115-127: David Garland. 1991. "Sociological Perspectives on Punishment" *Crime and Justice*, Vol. 14, (1991), pp. 115-127 <http://www.jstor.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/1147460>
- Posner, Eric. 2015. "A Terrible Shame" *Slate Magazine*. http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/view_from_chicago/2015/04/internet_s_haming_the_legal_history_of_shame_and_its_costs_and_benefits.html

4) May 15: Theories #3: Legal Consciousness

- Silbey, Susan and Patricia Ewick. 2000. "The Rule of Law – Sacred and Profane." *Society* 37(6):49-56. <http://link.springer.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/article/10.1007%2Fs12115-000-1023-0>
- Auyero, Javier and Debora Swistun. 2009. "Tiresias in Flammable Shantytown: Toward a Tempography of Domination." *Sociological Forum* 24:1-21. http://resolver.scholarsportal.info.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/resolve/08848971/v24i001/1_tifstatod

5) May 20: Victoria day, University closed

6) May 22: Theories #4: Feminism and the Law

Essay 1 Due at the Beginning of Class

- Elizabeth A. Sheehy 1999. "Legal responses to violence against women in Canada." *Canadian Woman Studies* 19:62-73. <http://pi.library.yorku.ca/ojs/index.php/cws/article/viewFile/8081/7261>

Unfounded

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/investigations/unfounded-sexual-assault-canada-main/article33891309/>

7) May 27: Legal Education

- Granfield, Robert. 1986. "Legal Education as Corporate Ideology: Student Adjustment to the Law School Experience." *Sociological Forum* 1:514-523.
http://www.jstor.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/684650?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents
- Laura Drake. 2010. "Getting into law school is harder than ever. Getting in has never been easy. But now, it's nearly impossible." *Macleans*.
<http://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/last-year-maybe-this-year-no-way/>

8) May 29: Legal Profession

- Sutton, John. 2001. Chapter 9, "The Transformation of Legal Practice in the Late Twentieth Century." Pp. 253-277 in *Law/Society: Origins, Interactions, and Change*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge.
<http://knowledge.sagepub.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/view/law-society/n9.xml>

9) June 3: Court Actors

- Blumberg, Abraham. 1967. "The Practice of Law as Confidence Game: Organizational Cooptation of a Profession." *Law & Society Review* 1:15-40 .
<http://www.jstor.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/3052933>
- Frohmann, Lisa. 1991. "Discrediting Victims' Allegations of Sexual Assault: Prosecutorial Accounts of Case Rejections." *Social Problems* 38:213-226.
<http://www.jstor.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/800530>

10) June 5: Lawmaking

Essay 2 Due at the Beginning of Class

- Levi, Ron. 2009. "Making Counter-Law: On Having No Apparent Purpose in Chicago." *British Journal of Criminology* 49:131-149.
<https://academic-oup-com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/bjc/article/49/2/131/351689>

11) June 10: Police

- Peter J. Carrington and Jennifer L. Schulenberg. 2008. "Structuring Police Discretion: The Effect on Referrals to Youth Court." *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 19: 349.
<http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/442223>
- Harcourt, Bernard. [2001] 2004. "Policing Disorder: Can We Reduce Serious Crime by Punishing Petty Offenses?." Pp. 416-423 in *The Social Organization of Law: Introductory Readings*, edited by A. Sarat. Los Angeles: Roxbury.
<http://www.bostonreview.net/us/bernard-e-harcourt-policing-disorder>

12) June 12: Test #1 in class (no final exam in the exam period)