Course Description
A dominant theme among many sociologists, jurists, and philosophers is that a primary function of law is to bring about social change. To this end, sociology of law will be explored through both historic and modern perspectives emphasizing the contributions of theorists such as Durkheim, Marx, Weber, Aquinas, Hart, and Rawls. Specific issues to be addressed by the course include: (1) the evolution, functions, and forms of social control, (2) forms of legal thought as they relate to contemporary social and political order, (3) conditions that give rise to forms of social control and the staff of specialists that are its promoters, and (4) the degree of freedom and coercion existing in the form of law. Sociological conditions that give rise to major legal developments will be explored through key appellate and supreme courts cases. An additional emphasis of the course will be to investigate what role sociology and other social sciences should play in the process of making new laws and abolishing obsolete ones.

At the conclusion of the course the student should be able to:
- Understand the focus of the sociology of law as distinguished from other areas of sociology
- Explain the contributions made by specific classical and contemporary theorists to the study of the sociology of law.
- Articulate how sociology influences case law and legal developments
- Critically evaluate what role sociology and other social sciences should play in the judicial system
- Understand how the United States Constitution has impacted various issues in the sociology of law.
- Appreciate how the development and evolution of the Bill of Rights has impacted the sociology of law.

Lecture topics include:
- Fundamentals of preparing a legal brief
- How to write and conduct a literature review
- Effective PowerPoint presentations
- Law: It’s Functions and Purpose
• Justice and Ethics  
• Making Law  
• Crime and Criminal Law  
• Crime and Criminal Procedure  
• Juvenile Justice  
• The Law and Social Control  
• Policing Vice  
• Law, Social Change and Class Struggle  
• Women and the Law  
• Racial Minorities and the Law

Class Format  
The class is based on a “seminar” learning style format. Course content includes, online readings accessible from the library, class discussions, lectures, videos, and PowerPoint presentations.

Classroom Conduct:  
Students are expected to act in a professional manner at all times. *Students failing to act in a professional manner will be asked to leave the class.* Professionalism includes, but is not limited to: civility and courtesy to everyone in class. This class should be viewed as a safe environment for all students to express their opinions without the fear of ridicule or judgment. Cell phone use during class is not allowed.

As this course satisfies the upper division communication/writing graduation requirement. This objective will be achieved through written assignments, a PowerPoint presentation, and logical analysis of case law. Attending class on a regular basis is strongly encouraged.

*All written work submitted for grading must be reviewed by a representative of the writing center (Marriot Library 2nd Floor) and must be accompanied by a stamp from the center indicating that the assignment was reviewed.

No text is required for this class.

Grading  
Grading for the class will be based on the following criteria:
Legal Brief Paper 1 *Furman v. Georgia* (20%), 408 U.S. 238 (1972) Due Date: February 4

Exam 1 (Take Home) 20% Due Date: February 20

Legal Brief Paper 2 *Roe v. Wade*, (20%) 410 U.S. 113 (1973) Due Date: March 17

PowerPoint Presentation (In class presentation) 20%. In class presentations begin March 5.
Exam 2 (Take Home) 20%  
Due Date: April 21

E-reserve Readings for Sociology of Law

How to find readings on Ereserve:
- Go to U of U Library Page
- Click of “Course Reserves
- Search on “Bench”

Select on the appropriate course

Grading
The final grade will be based on two exams, two legal briefs, and a PowerPoint assignment. Grading Scale: A (100-93) A- (92-90) B+ (89-87) B (86-83) B- (82-80) C+ (79-77) C (76-73) C- (72-70) D+ (69-67) D (66-63) D- (62-60) E (>60). Please note, there are no extra credit options for this course.

Declarations

Academic Misconduct
Per University of Utah regulations (Policy # 6-400). “A student who engages in academic misconduct,” as defined in Part I.B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, “may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student's degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.” Please refer to the Student Code for full elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php).

Addressing Sexual Misconduct
Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, and (801) 581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).
Safety
The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu."