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Introduction

SYP 3540 Sociology of Law

Gloria Lessan, Ph.D

Welcome

Welcome to (SYP3540)! Sociology of Law is a 3 credit-hour course. The information in this course guide is for the purpose of facilitating our working together while learning about the relationship between law and society. It contains the syllabus and every 2-week descriptions of the work required for the course. The syllabus contains basic information about the course objectives, textbook, and reading material, requirements, grading methodology, and course calendar. Below is the information of where, when, and how to contact us. We will consult this guide as often as necessary to clarify, restate, or change the parameters of the course at the discretion of the instructor.

You are requested to answer two anonymous surveys in order to monitor and assess the quality of this course. Your feedback will be used to modify the course where needed. You will be notified of any changes in a timely manner.

Leading Faculty/Instructor

Dr. Gloria T. Lessan, Associate-In Teaching
513 Bellamy, Sociology Department
Ph#: (850)644-6416 (Sociology Department)
Fax: (850)644-6208
Email: glessan@fsu.edu
Ph#: (850) 644-1839 (Office)

Mentors

Hena Wadhwa hkw14b@my.fsu.edu
Reilley Clemens
Help with FSU Procedures and Technology

Although you are attending FSU from a distance, you are not far from help. A complete distance learning community and support group will help answer your questions and remedy any problems, from enrolling in courses and developing an academic plan to accessing your course website and submitting assignments via the Web.

For Help with University or Course-Related Problems

Your distance-learning community includes the following help:

See your academic coordinator for questions and concerns about:

- Academic requirements of the University and your department or school
- Procedural matters such as course equivalency substitutions, course prerequisites, or graduation checks

For Help with Technical Problems

If your problems or questions concern your computer equipment, software, Internet connection, or the course website, follow the procedures described in one of the following two boxes:

If you have a technical question and are able to connect to the Internet:

1. Check the distance learning FAQs page at:

   http://online.fsu.edu/onslinesupport

2. If you do not find an answer to your question, check the wealth of information and contacts provided in the Student Handbook for Distance Learning, available online at:

   http://www.fsu.edu/~distance/gateway/student.html

3. If your question or problem is not addressed by the websites listed above, then send an email to:

   problems@campus.fsu.edu

If your problem concerns your course website, please include the following information in your email:

- The area in the course website at which you are experiencing difficulties (e.g., Discussion Board, Virtual Chat room, or file upload)
- A detailed description of the problem and exact transcriptions of any error messages
- Your course, course prefix, section, and instructor’s name
- Your name, email address, and a daytime phone number
And, if you can, include the following technical information:

- The Web browser you are using (e.g., Netscape Navigator, Microsoft Internet Explorer, AOL)
- The operating system you are using (i.e., Windows 95, 98, or NT; Mac; Linux; or Unix)
- Whether you are connecting with a modem or within a network

You will receive a reply to your email on the next business day.

If you have a technical question and are not able to connect to the Internet:

Call the ACNS Help Desk at 1-850-644-8502.
Help with GRT Textbook “Sociology of Law”

You are using an electronic textbook published by Great River Technologies headquartered in Dubuque, Iowa. The web support technicians from GRT are here to help you with accessing the text, accessing the tests in the textbook, answer your questions and remedy any problems with test-taking.

For Help with Course-Content and Course-Textbook Problems

Your distance-learning community includes the following help:

- Contact your course instructor for questions and concerns about:
  - Course textbook content
  - Your test-taking

- Contact your course mentor for questions and concerns about:
  - Your understanding of course readings
  - Your progress in the course

Course-specific questions you might ask a mentor:

- “Can you help me understand the differences between structural-functionalism and conflict views on law so I can answer the Week 2 questions?”
- “What am I doing wrong in my Discussion Board posting? I want to get a better grade on the next one.

General questions you might ask a mentor:

- “When I work on my essay for the discussion board, will the mentor be available to answer questions I might have about the essay?”
- “Will I be at a disadvantage because I live too far away from you to ever meet with you face-to-face?”
- “Will I be able to contact you directly via office hours?”

Contact your lead faculty only when:

You are unable to access the test or lost access to it
Your mentor directs you to do so
Or when you have a problem that is not adequately addressed by your mentor.
Additionally, if you have technical problems while taking a test, immediately do the following:

Copy the following link to GRT and paste in your browser

Webcom Support
[websupport@greatriverlearning.com]

Explain the nature of the problem to websupport.

For non-technical problems contact the instructor explaining your situation glessan@fsu.edu

Above all, keep us informed about your need for assistance at all times.
About this COURSE Guide

This course guide presents the syllabus, course calendar, and each 2-week or unit of this class through the following headings and sections:

Overview

The overview section provides a summary of the major theme or focus of study for the unit, as well as a brief description of the assigned readings and activities.

Objectives

The objectives of the semester are specified for each unit. It describes the skills you should master.

Focus Questions

The important questions about the major issues and concepts related to the unit topic are depicted here. These questions will help you organize and focus your readings and are often preparation for the questions posed on the Discussion Board (see “Discussions” below).

Readings

This section lists the readings that you should complete before the unit’s end.

Presentations

This section describes media presentations designed to explain, discuss, or elaborate on key course concepts. They often consist of slides on the main points accompanied by short audio segments. They may also appear in the form of short essays or lecture notes and scanned newspaper articles.

Discussions

The specific questions for the Discussion Board (Db) will be posted on your group site. This section, however, indicates the due dates for your postings on the Discussion Forum. The first date refers to your ORIGINAL contribution on the issue under discussion and the second due date refers to posting of at least ONE reply to one of your group members entry.
Assignments

This section lists applications and practices that will help you achieve the unit’s objectives. Activities may range from answering and uploading the study guide to Turnitin to contributing to anonymous extra-credit surveys.

Assessments

This is where the list of any assignments or activities for the unit that will receive individual grades appears. It also indicates the dates to access course exams on the e-text.

Checklist

This section gives you a checklist of the activities and assessments that you should have completed by the week’s or time unit’s end.
# Syllabus for SYP 3540 Sociology of Law

## Course Number, Title, and Prerequisites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number:</th>
<th>SYP 3540</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title:</td>
<td>Sociology of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Hours:</td>
<td>Three semester hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Course Description

This course is a sociological analysis of the legal order. It is a three credit hours course, meaning that for every hour of “instruction” there are three extra hours of study per week. The basic premise is that law is both, the product of social interaction and the impetus for social change. It emphasizes main sociological theories and research techniques to study the origins, processes, functions, and actors of the social reality known as Law. Additionally, the course considers the role of law in reinforcing and changing class, gender, and race inequalities.

## Course Objectives

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify, define, and illustrate basic concepts, theories, and research techniques employed in Sociology of Law.

2. Compare and contrast different definitions, theories, and methods used to explain the nature, causes, and consequences of law.

3. Explain how the socio-legal environment reflects and influences the structures of gender, race, and class.

4. Analyze the interconnection between the social and legal order using your “sociological imagination.”

5. Evaluate contrasting socio-legal views via discussion board participation and exams.

## Required Course Materials

### Textbook


The text is in electronic format. The access card to purchase the e-textbook are available at FSU Bookstore and Bill’s Bookstore. You can also get it directly from the publisher Great River Technologies [http://www.grtep.com](http://www.grtep.com)
Other Required Reading

Selected Readings indicated marked with * in the Course Calendar below are posted on SYP3540-webCourse Blackboard/Course Library

Suggested Resources (Optional)

In addition to the text, I recommend consulting college-level and sociology dictionaries and college encyclopedias. Although most legal terms will be defined in the text, I recommend using a legal dictionary when the need arises. As well, use the many links to sources of information on socio-legal matters found throughout the e-textbook. Do Not Use Wikipedia as your primary source of information outside the course materials.

*On your Blackboard homepage, click the button located in the top right corner that reads “Modify Content”. Of the several options, select dictionary (it also offers a thesaurus) and a dictionary prompt will become part of your homepage.

Course Requirements

Reading Assignments

Students are expected to have active and constructive class participation. Hence, assigned readings should be read during the corresponding dates as depicted in the Course Calendar below. Of course, additional readings are required before the tests. If at first you do not understand the material, you must re-read it as many a times as it is necessary to accomplish understanding. Remember that a 3-credit hour course entails three hours of reading/study per credit (at least 9 hours of study per week).

The corresponding readings for each topic will be listed in the Assignment site of Blackboard, Bb. You will either have the readings posted on Bb Course Library for direct download or, in few occasions there will be a link to the journal/site from which to do so.

To self-assess whether you fully grasp the concepts and arguments in the readings I suggest to:

- Write down summaries of the material read.
- Write down your questions out of the information presented specifying the particular issues that remain unclear.
- Contact your mentor for assistance on the issues above.

Study Guide Questions

The course has Four Study Guides posted on Blackboard. Each study guide includes the specific questions for the two topics covered in each exam. Thus Study Guide #1 includes questions for topics 1 and 2; Study Guide #2 includes the questions for topics 3 and 4; Study Guide #3 covers questions for topics 5 and 6; and Study Guide #4 contains the questions for topic 7. For each topic, you may find out that the answers to some questions overlap, are similar, or even contradict the answers to other questions. The reason for this is the fact that the issues hereby studied represent behavioral patterns reported in research that require specification of the social conditions under which legal outcomes vary and vice versa.

Write down the answers to the study guide questions as indicated in the Activities section of this course guide ahead. Upload your answers to Turnitin by the
corresponding due date. Do not wait until the eve of the due date to submit work. Your grade will be based on timely completion and coverage of all questions (2 points); complete full coverage but one day delay (1 point); else and failure to submit (0 points). Each study guide is 2% of the final grade for a total of 14 percent for all seven topics. Contact your mentor ahead of time whenever you need assistance with the study guide. Of course, I am available to assist you as well.

Although the study guide questions are a means to prepare you for the discussion board and exams, **NOTE that the study guide is not a contract that defines the test!**

**Discussion Board**

The forum for discussion will be posted on the Discussion Board site of your respective group at the beginning of each topic period.

You are REQUIRED to participate twice in the discussion board. The first time is with the post of your original essay-contribution to the discussion question (see below for posting criteria) by the specified due date. The second participation involves a reply to the entry of at least one of your classmates. The due date for the reply allows you time to read your classmates’ views to post a substantive and informed response rather than a mere, “I agree with your argument” or “very interesting approach.”

**Posting Criteria for Discussion Board**

The following rules refer to minimal parameters for content and format of your contribution.

**Content**

the quality of the contribution is to reflect the following college-level standards:

- **95-100 A** Excellent, creative and superb command of the subject matter. All parts of the question are covered.
- **90-93 A-** Creative and outstanding command of the subject matter. Misses few yet non-significant parts of the question
- **87-89 B+** Above average level but not outstanding grasp of the material
- **84-86 B** Above average but thin understanding of some readings
- **80-83 B-** Above average but misses some parts of the readings and thus is unable to apply subject matter at all levels
- **77-79 C+** Average level of achievement with some mastering yet narrow application of the material
- **74-76 C** Average level of achievement; it refers to the readings in a superficial way suggesting spotty understanding of the material
- **70-73 C-** Close to average due to spotty understanding of the material and inability to apply readings
- **67-69 D+** Below average understanding, showing little knowledge of the material
- **64-66 D** Below average level with multiple contradictory arguments
- **60-63 D-** Below average understanding thus failure to apply readings
- **59 or lower F** Fails to understand and address the readings on the subject
Format

Minimal parameters for presentation
1. Avoid personal opinions. Write your arguments using your own words; use quotes sparsely and reference them appropriately. Inform and reference your arguments with course AND one other source besides textbook and course readings (use JSTOR for pertinent sociology of law sources). Newspaper and magazine articles are accepted as long as these are recognized as legitimate, e.g. The New York Times. No blogs and social media based on personal opinion
2. The length of your original entry is to be at least, three paragraphs of single-spaced 7-8 sentences each i.e. about ¾ of a screen. Mentors will not read entries longer than one page.
3. Use formal academic language; avoid colloquialisms such as contractions.
4. Check for spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors before submitting
5. Proof read your statements to ensure that your arguments do not incur into contradictions left unexplained.

Failure to meet the above criteria will negatively affect your grade up to 10 points off the grade of the discussion board.

In a nutshell, participate with questions, answers, opinions, and comments to enrich the forum. Be attentive to what others say, and interact with your e-classmates. Do all these in a courteous, respectful and scholarly manner. Above all, avoid using the discussion board as a forum for your own agenda. Deliver your opinions in normal, non-aggressive manner, and always participate in ways that advance the discussion of the issues. Each and every one of you must cooperate in building a supportive learning environment that benefits us all. My role is to generate and steer the discussion of the materials always within a civil and respectful atmosphere.

Exam Policy

Exams
There are four exams in the semester. Each exam covers the assigned readings and online discussion materials. The format of the exams is a combination of multiple-choice and true-false questions. These exams are accessed from the e-book Sociology of Law and during the dates specified in the Calendar.

A makeup exam will be allowed IF AND ONLY IF there is a legitimate reason for missing the test (see FSU policy on legitimate reasons and appropriate documentation required to justify missing the test date). It is your responsibility to notify the instructor of your inability to take the test. Do so prior to or on the test date. The instructor and student will work out a
date/time for the makeup exam with GRT.

**Grading**

Each exam is worth 6.25% of the final grade for a total of 25% of the final grade for all four exams in the semester. Each discussion board participation (original and reply) is 10% or 60% total; the remaining 15% is the accumulation of 7 study guides of 2% each plus 1% for never missing a due date.

All discussion board participations and exams are graded on a scale of 0-100 (see above criteria for grading discussion board postings). The equivalent letter grade is shown as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-66</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exam scores and class announcements will be posted on the SYP3540-web Bb. Check the site on a regular basis to learn about your tests and discussion-board grades as well as about any development or changes in the syllabus. Contact me and your mentor for problems regarding grades. Keep hard copies of your grade book at every posting.

**Student Conduct**

My many years of college experience, both as student and instructor, have shown me that for the most part students are bright, good-natured and amiable toward others. In general you are expected to comply with the FSU Code of Conduct at all time while participating in this course. At all times your participation in this class, in general, and on the discussion board, in particular, should be courteous, respectful and professional. We
will disagree, at times, with others but, will ALWAYS respect each other.


**Academic Honor Code**

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in the Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Please see the following website for a complete explanation:

http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy/

**Academic Dishonesty**

Students must abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a “zero” for that particular factor or an “F” for the course. Any student who plagiarizes, cheats on exams, or otherwise behaves in a dishonest way may be reported to the University Judicial Office for official adjudication:

http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergrad/info/acad_regs.htm#AcademicHonor

http://online.fsu.edu/learningresources/plagiarism
Students with Disabilities

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) notify me or your mentor in a letter indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of classes. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities contact:

Student Disability Resource Center, Dean of Students, 08 Kellum Hall

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fl 32306-4400, (850) 644-9566 (voice),

(850) 644-8504 (TDD), SDRC@admin.fsu.edu,

http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/
## Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings and Homework Assignments</th>
<th>Discussion Board Due</th>
<th>Assessment and Examinations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1-3  | 1. Introduction to Sociology of Law | Lessan, Unit 1  
Black, 1983 *Law Dictionary* (definition of law and related terms)  
*Schur, “Law and Society”* (1968:24-78)  
*Plessy as "Passing": Judicial Responses to Ambiguously Raced Bodies in Plessy v. Ferguson* Author(s): Mark Golub  
Source: Law & Society Review, Vol. 39, No. 3 (Sep., 2005), pp. 563-600 | Post your original contribution to the discussion forum on Sunday Sep. 6th, 11:55 PM  
Post a reply by Tuesday, Sep. 8th, 11:55 PM | Answer questions 1 thru 13 from study guide #1 and upload answers in Turnitin by Saturday, Sep. 5th, 11:55 PM |
| 3-5  | 2. The Social Roots of Law: Custom, Structure, and Inequality | Lessan, Unit 2  
*Grattett, et.al  
*Going to the Chapel? Same-Sex Marriage Bans in the United States, 1973–2000* Author(s): SARAH A. SOULE  
Post a reply by Tuesday, Sep. 22nd, 11:55 PM | Finish answering questions of study guide #1.  
Upload by Saturday, Sep. 19th, 11:55 PM  
First Exam (Units 1 and 2 and readings)  
Wednesday, Sep. 23rd, 0:01 AM to Thursday, Sep. 24th, 11:55 PM  
Contribute to Extra Credit Survey #1 by Friday, Sep. 25th, 11:55 PM |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings and Homework Assignments</th>
<th>Discussion Board Due</th>
<th>Assessment and Examinations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>3. Lawmaking</td>
<td>Lessan Unit 3</td>
<td>Post an original contribution by <strong>Sunday, Oct. 4th</strong>, 11:55 PM</td>
<td>Answer questions 1 thru 14 from study guide #2. <strong>Upload by Saturday, Oct 3rd, 11:55 PM.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topics</td>
<td>Readings and Homework Assignments</td>
<td>Discussion Board Due</td>
<td>Assessment and Examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topics</td>
<td>Readings and Homework Assignments</td>
<td>Discussion Board Due</td>
<td>Assessment and Examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>6. Law Consequence Social Change</td>
<td>Lessan, Unit 6</td>
<td>Post an original contribution by <strong>Sunday, Nov. 15th, 11:55 PM</strong> Post a reply by <strong>Tuesday, Nov. 17th, 11:55 PM</strong></td>
<td>Continue answering questions 12 thru end from study guide #3. <strong>Upload answers by Saturday, Nov. 14th, 11:55 PM</strong> Third exam (Units 5 and 6 and extra readings) Wednesday, Nov. 18th, 0:01 AM to Thursday, Nov. 19th, 11:55 PM After test take extra-credit quiz (access it via textbook) during 11/18, 0:01 AM to 11/19th, 11:55 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|       | 11/1-11/17                        | *The Impact of Gun Laws on Police Deaths*  
Author(s): David B. Mustard  
*Increasing Convictions in Domestic Violence Cases: A Field Test in Milwaukee*  
Author(s): Robert C. Davis, Barbara E. Smith and Caitilin R. Rabbitt  
Author(s): David B. Mustard  
*Increasing Convictions in Domestic Violence Cases: A Field Test in Milwaukee*  
Author(s): Robert C. Davis, Barbara E. Smith and Caitilin R. Rabbitt  
Source: The Justice System Journal, Vol. 22, No. 1 (2001), pp. 61-72 | Continue answering questions 12 thru end from study guide #3. **Upload answers by Saturday, Nov. 14th, 11:55 PM** Third exam (Units 5 and 6 and extra readings) Wednesday, Nov. 18th, 0:01 AM to Thursday, Nov. 19th, 11:55 PM After test take extra-credit quiz (access it via textbook) during 11/18, 0:01 AM to 11/19th, 11:55 PM |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings and Homework Assignments</th>
<th>Discussion Board Due</th>
<th>Assessment and Examinations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 14-15 (11-20-11/29) | 7. The Legal Profession | Lessan, Unit 7  
*Erlanger, et al “Law Student Idealism and Job Choice: Some New Data on an Old Question”  
*Hagan, “The Gender Stratification of Income Inequality among Lawyers”  
*Even Lawyers Get the Blues: Gender, Depression, and Job Satisfaction in Legal Practice  
Author(s): John Hagan and Fiona Kay  
Source: Law & Society Review, Vol. 41, No. 1 (Mar., 2007), pp. 51-78 | Post an original contribution by **Sunday, Nov. 29th, 11:55 PM**  
Post a reply by **Tuesday, Dec. 1st, 11:55 PM** | Answer questions from study guide #4.  
Upload answers by **Saturday, Nov. 28th, 11:55 PM**  
Final Exam (Unit 7 and extra readings)  
Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, 0:01 AM to Thursday, Dec. 3rd, 11:55 PM  
After the exam, answer Extra Credit Survey #2 by **Friday, Dec. 4th, 11:55 PM** |
Weeks 1-3: Aug. 24th – Sep. 6

**Topic** 1. Introduction to Sociology of Law

**Overview** This is an introduction to the field of Sociology of Law, its history and main argument: law and society are inseparable. The discussion stresses the lack of agreement among social scientists on the elusive notion of law, and the consequences such differences have for evaluating what events represent or do not represent law.

**Objectives**
1) Identify, define and illustrate selected definitions of law from the social sciences; 2) Compare and contrast among selected social sciences definitions of law and notions of law between lawyers and social scientists.

**Focus Questions** If law varies in meaning, which events are to be considered law and which are not? And who says it?

**Readings**
- Lessan, Unit 1
- Definition of law and related terms in Black (1983) Law Dictionary
- *Schur “Law and Society” (1968:24-78)

**Presentations**
- *Social Sciences Definitions of Law: A presentation of selected definitions of law from the Social Sciences to emphasize the lack of agreement among these students on what law is; and, to serve as analytical devices to show areas of overlap and differences on how classical and contemporaneous theorists view events as either representing or not representing law.

**Discussion**
Go to the Discussion Board site for your group and read the question. Drawing from the assigned materials, think about your answer. See syllabus p. 10 for posting criteria.

Post an original contribution on your group Discussion Board by Sunday, Sep. 6th by 11:55pm and a reply by Tuesday, Sep. 8th, 11:55pm.

**Activities**
Download study guide #1 and begin answering the questions #1 thru #13 before Sep. 4th.

Tie in readings from Lessan and extra readings posted on Bb. If you need assistance regarding the reading materials contact your mentor.

**Assessments**
Use the study guide questions for self evaluation. Upload answers in Turnitin by Saturday, Sep. 5th, 11:55 PM

Post your essays on the forum under discussion and comment on the
content of one of your classmates’ contribution.

**Checklist**

1. □ Have you read <assigned readings>?

2. □ Have you posted your answers to <discussion forum>?

3. Have you uploaded the answered study guide questions in Turnitin?

4. HAVE YOU CONTACTED YOUR MENTOR FOR ASSISTANCE?
Weeks 3-5: Sep. 9th – Sep. 22nd

**Topic**

2. The Social Roots of Law: Custom, Structure, and Inequality

**Overview**

This section introduces the main ideas of several sociological theories regarding a)society and b) the connection between society and law

**Objectives**

1) Identify the main arguments from each theory regarding social order, social change, and law; 2) Compare and contrast sociological theories in terms of their differences and similarities regarding society and the society-law connection; 3) Compare and contrast sociological theories in terms of their strengths and weaknesses to explain law, and 4) Apply the theoretical arguments to specified current events

**Focus Questions**

How does each theory view law? Is law a result of societal needs, or of group conflict, or of technological development? Is there one theory that best explains how law comes about? What does each theory say about law that the others do not?

**Readings**

- Lessan, Unit 2

**Presentations**

* Presentations for this topic is described in Table 2.3 Lessan, Unit 2

**Discussion**

Read the question for discussion in your group’s forum and think about your answer and references. See syllabus p.10 for posting criteria

Post original contribution to the Db by Sunday, Sep. 20th, 11:55pm and a reply by Tuesday, Sep. 22nd, 11:55pm

**Activities**

Answer study guide questions # 14 thru #36 before Sep.19th

Contact your mentor for assistance if you have problems with reading materials or with answering study guide questions

**Assessments**

Use the study guide questions for self-evaluation. Upload answers by Saturday, Sep. 19th, 11:55 PM

Post your essays on the forum under discussion and comment on the content of one of your classmates’ contribution.

First Exam (Topics 1 and 2) Wednesday, Sep. 23rd, 00:01 AM to Thursday, Sep. 24th, by 11:55 PM.

Answer the anonymous extra credit survey #1 by Saturday, Sep. 26th, 11:55pm
Checklist

1. ☐ Have you read <the assigned readings>?

2. ☐ Have you viewed <the assigned presentation>?

3. ☐ Have you posted <your contributions to the discussion forum>?

4. ☐ Have you completed the study guide questions and uploaded it to Turnitin?

5. Have you contacted your mentor for assistance?
Weeks 6-7: Sep. 27th - Oct. 6th

**Topic**  
3. Lawmaking

**Overview**  
This section looks at the process of lawmaking and at the lawmakers. It describes how laws are made, by whom, and what social factors affect lawmaking and law makers. It illustrates the theoretical arguments on the social roots of law: custom, social structure, conflict, and social interaction.

**Objectives**  
1) Identify the different forms of lawmaking and the socio-demographic characteristics of their respective makers; 2) Identify the stages of the legislative process as an ideal type process; 3) Compare and contrast lawmaking by legislators, judges, and administrators in terms of types of law, procedures, area of expertise, and scope.

**Focus Questions**  
Who makes laws? How are laws made? What factors affect the decisions of lawmakers? Are the laws a result of customs, social development, group interests, self-interest of law makers, definition of the situation by social actors, the public good or else?

**Readings**  
- Lessan, Unit 3
- *Montini, “Gender and Emotion in the Advocacy for Breast Cancer Informed Consent Legislation*
- *Flowchart on Lawmaking*
- *Interest Groups, Lobbying, and Deception: The Tobacco Industry and Airline Smoking*  
  Author(s): Peggy Lopipero, Dorie E. Apollonio and Lisa A. Bero  

**Presentations**  
View PowerPoint presentation on “All About Lawmaking” and relate it to the Flowchart on Lawmaking

**Discussion**  
Go to your group’s Discussion Board and read the question(s). Drawing from the assigned materials, think about your answer. See syllabus p. 10 for posting criteria.

Post an original contribution by Sunday, October 4th, 11:55 PM

Post a reply by Wednesday, Oct. 6th, 11:55 PM

**Activities**  
Download Study Guide #2 and begin working on questions #1 thru #14 before Oct. 3rd. Contact your mentor for assistance if you have problems with reading materials or with answering study guide questions
Assessments

Use the study guide questions for self-evaluation. Upload answers by Saturday, Oct 3rd, 11:55 PM.

Post both: your original contribution and comment on the content of one of your classmates’ contribution by respective due dates (10/4 and 10/6)

Checklist

1. □ Have you read <the assigned readings>?

6. □ Have you viewed <the presentation>?

7. □ Have you posted <your contributions to the discussion forum>?

8. □ Have you answered the study guide questions and uploaded it to Turnitin?

9. □ Have you replied to the anonymous extra credit survey #1?

10. Have you contacted your mentor for assistance?
Weeks 7-9: Oct. 7th – 20th

**Topic**  
4. Law Consequence: Social Control

**Overview**  
There are expected consequences of enacted and implemented laws. One of them is social control. Here we will study the research on the extent to which the law and its enforcers effect social order or fail to curtail deviance and crime.

**Objectives**  
1) Define, illustrate with examples, and identify different forms of social control; 2) Analyze research findings regarding the effectiveness of laws to control deviant behavior or to elicit conformity; 3) Identify the factors affecting law enforcement and the role of gender, race, and class on law enforcers; 4) Critically evaluate the research findings on the deterrent effect of capital punishment in the USA

**Focus Questions**  
Does the law deter people from crime and other law violations? Which factors affect law enforcement? Is law enforcement a matter decided by evidence? Or is it due to the discretion of law enforcers?

**Readings**  
- Lessan, Unit 4
- *Mosoff, “Motherhood, Madness, and Law”*

**Presentations**  
View PowerPoint presentation on “Social Control”

**Discussion**  
Go to the Discussion Board site for your group and read the question. Drawing from the assigned materials, think about your answer. See syllabus p. 10 for posting criteria.

Post an original contribution by Sunday, Oct. 18th, 11:55 PM and a reply by Tuesday, Oct. 20th, 11:55 PM

**Activities**  
Answer study guide questions #1 thru to last before Oct. 17th.

Contact your mentor if assistance is needed

Tie in Lessan and Bb readings with PowerPoint presentation on social control. Answer the focus questions above as they apply to capital punishment using the information from “In Ryan’s Words”

**Assessments**  
Use the study guide for self-evaluation. Upload answers on
Saturday, Oct. 17th, by 11:55 PM

Post your essays on the forum under discussion: your original contribution and the comment on the content of one of your classmates’ contribution.

Second Exam (Topics 3 and 4) and Extra-Credit Quiz

From Oct. 22nd, 00:01 AM to Oct. 23rd, 11:55 PM

**Checklist**

1. □ Have you read <the assigned readings>?
2. □ Have you viewed <the presentation>?
3. □ Have you posted <your contributions to the discussion board>?
4. □ Have you completed <the study guide questions and uploaded it to Turnitin>?
5. □ Have you taken the exam and extra-credit quiz?
6. □ Have you contacted your mentor for assistance?
Week 10: Oct. 24th – Nov. 1st

**Topic**  
5. Law Consequence: Dispute Settlement

**Overview**  
A second alleged consequence of law is dispute settlement or conflict resolution. Here we will examine when laws are used to settle disputes, who used them, and how often the courts are involved.

**Objectives**  
Identify the different methods for processing disputes; 2) Compare and contrast these processes in terms of similarities and differences; 3) Critically evaluate the degree of “dispute settlement” achieved via the courts; 4) Identify the users of court services and their reasons for doing so; and 5) Summarize research findings on the relationship between social development and litigation

**Focus Questions**  
Does the law settle disputes or is it more a source of conflict? Are Americans “sue” happy?

**Readings**  
- Lessan, Unit 5

**Presentations**  
View PowerPoint presentation on “Conflict Resolution”

**Discussion**  
No Discussion Board. Happy Halloween!

**Activities**  
Download Study Guide #3 and begin work on questions #1 thru #11 before Halloween

Contact your mentor if you need assistance with answering study guide or understanding readings

Tie in Lessan and readings with PowerPoint presentation

**Assessments**  
Use the study guide for self-evaluation. Upload answers to study guide questions on Monday, Nov. 1st

**Checklist**  
1. □ Have you read <the assigned chapter>?
2. □ Have you viewed <the presentation>?
3. □ Have you answered the study guide questions and uploaded it to Turnitin?
Weeks 11-13: Nov. 2nd – 17th

**Topic**


**Overview**

The study of the effects of legislation on social conditions is known as social impact studies or social policy evaluation. Here we will look at the problems for assessing the degree to which laws accomplish or fail to accomplish their purpose(s). The problems reside on the intentions of the law itself and on the environment in which it operates, namely policymakers, enforcers, interpreters, and target populations.

**Objectives**

1) Identify the methodological problems for evaluating the extent to which the law brings about social change; 2) Describe how lawmakers, enforcers, interpreters, and the general population limit the degree of social change brought about by laws; 3) Relate the effect of law on social conditions to its other consequences for social control and dispute settlement; and 4) Relate the impact of law on society to the social origins of law.

**Focus Questions**

Is the law an instrument of change? Is it possible to measure this effect? If not why? If yes, are the changes expected or unexpected? Are the changes short or long term? Are the changes limited and by what, who, and how? Are the changes for the common good or rather beneficial to some groups more than to others? How does the effect of law on social change relate to its social control and conflict resolution effects?

**Readings**

- Lessan, Unit 6
- *Example of Effective Social Change: “Increasing Conviction in Violent Cases in Milwaukee”*

**Presentations**

- View PowerPoint presentation on “Legal Impact Studies”

**Discussion**

Go to your group’s Discussion Board and read the question(s). Drawing from the assigned materials, think about your answer. See syllabus p. 10 for posting criteria.

Post an original contribution by Sunday, Nov. 15th, by 11:55 PM and a reply by Tuesday, Nov. 17th, 11:55 PM

**Activities**

Answer study guide questions # 12 thru # 19 before Saturday, 11/14

Contact your mentor if you need assistance

Tie in Lessan, Unit 6 with Power Point presentation on law and social change. Pay special attention to the relationship among the three
consequences of law (answer the above focus question above)

**Assessments**

Use the study guide for self-evaluation. Upload answers by Saturday, Nov. 14th, 11:55 PM

Post your original essay about the forum topic under discussion and a comment on the content of one of your classmates’ contribution.

Test #3 (Topics 5 and 6) and Extra-Credit Quiz

From Nov. 18th, 00:01 AM to Nov. 19th, 11:55 PM

**Checklist**

1. [ ] Have you read <the textbook>?
2. [ ] Have you viewed <the presentation>?
3. [ ] Have you posted <your contributions to the discussion board>?
4. [ ] Have you answered the study guide questions or contact your mentor for assistance?
5. [ ] Have you answered the exam and extra-credit quiz?
# Weeks 14-16: Nov. 20th - Dec. 1st

**Topic**  
7. The Legal Profession

**Overview**  
This topic focuses on the development of the legal profession and training of lawyers. It discusses the role of gender, race, and class in the successful career of lawyers as well as changes in the future of the profession.

**Objectives**  
1) Describe the history of the legal profession in the USA; 2) Identify the characteristics of a profession as it applies to practice of law and the challenges to the autonomy of lawyers in the future; 3) Outline the socio-demographic characteristics of lawyers and law schools; 4) Compare and contrast the types of settings where lawyers work; 5) Compare and contrast the differences in the career of lawyers due to gender and race

**Focus Questions**  
Why do lawyers rank very high in occupational prestige? Are all specialties similar in prestige? Who goes to law school? How are lawyers trained? What factors account for the successful career of lawyers? What is the paradox of the contented female lawyer? What challenges to their autonomy are faced by lawyers?

**Readings**  
- Lessan Unit 7
- *Even Lawyers Get the Blues: Gender, Depression, and Job Satisfaction in Legal Practice*  
  Author(s): John Hagan and Fiona Kay  

**Presentations**  
*View PowerPoint presentation on “Sociological Analysis of the Profession”*

**Discussion**  
Go to your group’s Discussion Board and read the question(s). Drawing from the assigned materials, think about your answer. See syllabus p. 10 for posting criteria.

Post an original contribution by Sunday, Nov. 29th, 11:55 PM and a reply by Tuesday, Dec 1st

**Activities**  
Answer study guide question #4

Tie in Lessan, Unit 7 with journal articles and PowerPoint presentation

**Assessments**  
Upload answers to study guide questions on Turnitin by Saturday, Nov. 28th, 11:55 PM
Post your essays on the forum under discussion and comment on the content of one of your classmates’ contribution.

Final Exam (Topic 7) Dec. 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 00:01 AM to Dec. 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 11:55 PM

Answer the anonymous extra credit survey #2 by Friday, Dec. 4\textsuperscript{th}, 11:55 PM

\textit{Checklist}

1. \ding{51} Have you read the materials?
2. \ding{55} Have you answered the study guide question and uploaded it to Turnitin?
3. \ding{55} Have you posted <your Discussion Board contributions>?
4. \ding{55} Have you completed the <extra-credit survey #2>?