COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the legal profession not from the perspective of law practitioners, but from the social science studies on various aspects of this profession in the United States and other social contexts. It does not teach you how to think like a lawyer, but provides you social science perspectives for understanding how the legal profession is organized, differentiated, and transformed over time. It also examines the relationship between lawyers and other social entities, such as their clients, market competitors, state regulators, and the process of globalization.

REQUIREMENTS

The course is designed as an advanced-level seminar, and therefore both careful reading and active class participation are important. Every student is required to do a reading presentation at one class and lead the discussion in that class during the semester. The instructor reserves the rights to take class attendance randomly and to call individual names for answering questions concerning the readings. Please communicate with me if you become ill or emergencies arise so that I will be aware of your circumstances. Reading and class participation account for 10% of your final grade.

Every student is required to submit a one-page summary each week of all of that week’s readings (except for Week 1 and Week 8) to the “Communication → Discussion” forum at Learn@UW by 10:00am on Tuesday. These summaries account for 20% of your final grade. (You have the option to skip summaries for up to 3 weeks without losing your grade, i.e., the minimal number of your summaries must reach 10 by the end of the semester.)

In addition to reading summaries and class participation, the main requirements of this course consist of two open-book, take-home exams. The mid-term exam is scheduled in the week of March 10-14, 2014 (Week 8) and it accounts for 30% of your final grade. The final exam is scheduled in the week of May 12-16, 2014 (exam week) and it accounts for 40% of your final grade. Specific information about the two exams will be given at least a week before the exams.
READINGS

The course has no textbook. All the readings are available in PDF format at Learn@UW. After logging in to the course website, please click on the “Materials” button and then select “Content”. All the readings are in the “Readings” folder.

READING SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction
January 21 (Tuesday)
Course introduction – no reading.
January 23 (Thursday)

Week 2: History: England and the United States
January 28 (Tuesday)
January 30 (Thursday)

Week 3: History: Continental Europe and Asia
February 4 (Tuesday)
February 6 (Thursday)

Week 4: General Theories: Market Control and Jurisdictional Conflict
February 11 (Tuesday)
February 13 (Thursday)
Week 5: The Social Structure of the Bar
February 18 (Tuesday)

February 20 (Thursday)

Week 6: The Rise of Large Law Firms
February 25 (Tuesday)

February 27 (Thursday)

Week 7: Solo Practice and Small-Firm Lawyers
March 4 (Tuesday)

March 6 (Thursday)

Week 8: Mid-Term Exam
March 11 (Tuesday)
Library research for mid-term exam – no reading.
March 13 (Thursday)
Take-home mid-term exam – no reading.

------- Spring Break -------

Week 9: Lawyers and Clients
March 25 (Tuesday)
March 27 (Thursday)

Week 10: Status and Rewards
April 1 (Tuesday)

April 3 (Thursday)

Week 11: Professional Careers
April 8 (Tuesday)

April 10 (Thursday)

Week 12: Gender and Racial Inequalities
April 15 (Tuesday)

April 17 (Thursday)

Week 13: Interprofessional Competition
April 22 (Tuesday)

April 24 (Thursday)
Week 14: Lawyers and the State

April 29 (Tuesday)

May 1 (Thursday)

Week 15: Globalization

May 6 (Tuesday)

May 8 (Thursday)