Socio-Legal Studies
Sociology 930, Fall 2012

Time: 3:30-5:25pm, Tuesday
Location: Social Sciences 6304
Instructor: Professor Sida Liu
Office: 3460 Sewell Social Sciences
Office Hours: 10:00am-12:00pm, Wednesday
Phone: (608) 262-2082 (office)
Email: sidaliu@ssc.wisc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a graduate-level seminar that focuses on the deep reading and intensive discussion of major socio-legal theories and empirical studies. We begin by the classical and contemporary theories of the sociology of law and then proceed to various topics of law and society research, including legal consciousness, legal pluralism, court and litigation, legal profession, law and development, legal mobilization, and the globalization of law.

REQUIREMENTS

Reading is at the heart of this seminar. Please make sure you complete the assigned readings before coming to every class. For each week, one student is responsible for presenting the readings and raising a series of questions for discussion. The class discussion is organized around those questions as well as other questions that the instructor or the students raise in the classroom. Reading and class participation account for 40% of the final grade.

Besides reading and class participation, the only requirement of the course is a final paper. This can be either a research paper investigating an empirical or theoretical issue, or a paper that integrates and critically discusses some of the course readings. For Ph.D. students, a research paper that aims at thesis or publication is highly recommended. A one-page outline of the paper is due at class on November 20 (Tuesday). The deadline for the final paper is 5:00pm on December 21 (Friday). The final paper accounts for 60% of the final grade.

READINGS

The course has no textbook, and the instructor has tried to assign as many electronic readings as possible, but given the nature of the law and society field, several books will still be assigned as required readings. It is expected that you buy some of these books and use them extensively during the semester and in your later research work. The required books are also on reserve in the Social Science Reference Library (8432 Social Sciences Building). Here is a list of the books:


All the other readings are available in electronic format at Learn@UW. After logging in to the course website, please click on the “Content” button at the upper-left corner of the webpage. All the readings are in PDF format under the “Readings” folder.

**OFFICE HOURS**

The instructor’s office hours are 10:00am-12:00pm on Wednesday. Please feel free to come by to discuss course issues, career questions, or anything else. If you cannot come to the regular office hours due to conflicts of schedule, please email to make an appointment and find another time to meet.
READING SCHEDULE

Week 1: Course Introduction
September 4 (Tuesday)
Course introduction – no reading.

Week 2: Law and Society Theories: An Overview
September 11 (Tuesday)

Week 3: Max Weber’s Sociology of Law
September 18 (Tuesday)

Week 4: Law as an Instrument of Domination
September 25 (Tuesday)

Week 5: Law as a Functional System
October 2 (Tuesday)

Week 6: Critical Theories of Law
October 9 (Tuesday)

**Week 7: Legal Consciousness**
**October 16 (Tuesday)**

**Week 8: Legal Pluralism**
**October 23 (Tuesday)**

**Week 9: Court and Litigation: Patterns**
**October 30 (Tuesday)**

**Week 10: Court and Litigation: Processes**
**November 6 (Tuesday)**

**Week 11: Legal Profession: Social Structure and Work**

**November 13 (Tuesday)**

**Week 12: Legal Profession: Politics**

**November 20 (Tuesday)**

**Week 13: Law and Development**

**November 27 (Tuesday)**

**Week 14: Legal Mobilization**

**December 4 (Tuesday)**


**Week 15: Law and Globalization**

**December 11 (Tuesday)**


