

**PSC 374
LAW & SOCIETY
FALL 2023**

(Syllabus subject to change as needed)

Professor: Yüksel Sezgin, Ph.D.

Email: ysezgin@syr.edu

Office: 531 Eggers Hall (315-443-4431)

Meeting Times & Location: MW 2:15-3:35 pm @ Slocum 214

Office Hours: Tue 5–6.30 pm, *Peripateo:* Tue 10.00-10.30 am (short campus walks with students-weather permitting) (please email before meeting/walk)

TA: Kirin R. Taylor (ktaylo17@syr.edu)

Course Description:

This course will look at law as a process through which the rules of the game are constantly made and remade through interactions between the state and society. In other words, the course will take a diachronic view of legal institutions and norms in the making rather than a view of “the” law as a body of synchronic and pre-established norms. Students will observe the law’s complex role as a constitutive, regulative, and coercive force in public and private spheres. In the process, they will think critically about how law shapes and enables social and individual interactions, how law constructs difference, how law mediates power relationships, how law demarcates communal boundaries, and how the law operates as an instrument of violence, domination, and control in various national systems in Latin America, Africa, Middle East, South Asia, and the US.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Gain a general understanding of the field of law and society.
- Comprehend historical and contemporary theories about the role of law in society and whose interests the law serves, why and in what ways law is mobilized,
- Apply specific theoretical perspectives to everyday legal, political, and social disputes,
- Evaluate how and why different individuals and groups view and experience the law in specific ways and how the law differently affects individuals’ lives.
- Critically discuss and analyze if and when the law can bring about social change and explain the law’s relationship to race, gender, and class.

Requirements of the Course and Assignments:

Test-1 (35%), Test-2 (35%), Class Assignments/Participation (20%), L&S in the News Report (10%)

L&S in the News Report: Students must follow news focusing on legal affairs—especially the courts in the US and abroad—through major newspapers and news networks (e.g., NYT, Washington Post, CNN, BBC, Reuters, Bloomberg, etc.) for 14 consecutive days during the semester and summarize them in 4 double-spaced pages.

The professor will provide further information on student responsibilities, assignments, and exams in class.

Important Deadlines:

Test-1: October 18, 2023

Test-2: November 29, 2023

L&S in the News Report: December 11, 2023

Required Texts:

There are two types of required materials for this class:

- 1) The textbook is available at syracuse.ecampus.com:

Calavita, K. (2016). *Invitation to Law & Society*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 9780226296586 (2nd edition)

- 2) Electronic readings are available through the class website on Blackboard. You may want to print out electronic readings before coming to the class or section. There is a total ban on using electronic devices in the classroom. Please see the policy below.

Academic Integrity:

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the policy and know it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations and university policy. The university policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in-class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same written work in more than one class without receiving written authorization from both instructors. The presumptive penalty for a first offense by an undergraduate student is course failure, accompanied by a transcript notation indicating that the failure resulted from a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy. The standard sanction for a first offense by a graduate student is suspension or expulsion. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>.

Laptops and other electronic devices:

During class, your jobs are to listen actively, take careful notes, reflect on the concepts we are discussing, and participate in those discussions when you have something to say.

None of these jobs requires a laptop, a tablet, or a phone, and using such devices during class can distract students sitting nearby. As such, all electronic devices must be turned off and put away promptly at 2:15 pm. and must stay put away until 3:35 pm. Research has demonstrated that taking notes by hand significantly improves the long-term retention and understanding of concepts. You could read about it here: <http://m.chronicle.com/article/The-Benefits-of-No-Tech-Note/228089/> or here: <http://www.vox.com/2014/6/4/5776804/note-taking-by-hand-versus-laptop>.

If you have paperwork from ODS that allows you to take notes by laptop/tablet, please let me know as soon as possible so we can accommodate your request. ODS also provides note-taking services for qualified students: <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/students/notetaking/>. If you do not have paperwork from ODS but need to use a laptop/tablet to take notes during the class, you must talk to the professor to obtain special permission.

To familiarize yourself with practical note-taking tools and strategies, please visit <http://cls.syr.edu/cls/notetakingabout.php>. You could also use tape recorders or digital recorder pens (<https://jbochman.expressions.syr.edu/?p=91>). If you plan to use a recorder, you must seek permission from your instructors (myself and your TA) in advance.

Late Assignment Policy:

Unless special arrangements have been made, assignments received after the due date will be penalized .2 for each late day. Of course, some legitimate excuses exist for failure to complete assignments on time, such as illness or family emergency. You should provide the instructor or TA with a written, verifiable excuse as soon as possible.

Disability-Related Accommodations:

If you need accommodations for a disability, please get in touch with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

Religious Observances:

SU's religious observances policy, found at http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm, recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students can make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to religious observance, provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. For fall and spring semesters, an online notification

process is available through MySlice/Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances from the first day of class until the end of the second week.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
8/28	Introduction to the Course		
8/30	Law & Society as a Field	Calavita (2016), pp. 1-10 Rosen (2008), pp. 1-13	
9/4	No Class	Labor Day	
9/6	Conceptualizing Law in Society	Menski (2000), pp. 51-76, 108-123	
9/11	Conceptualizing Law in Society	Calavita (2016), pp. 11-36 Lanski (1984), pp.43-74	
9/13	Law as a Means of Class Domination	Hunt (1993), pp. 17-35, 249-300	
9/18	Law as a Means for Social Control	Foucault, 1995, pp.231-256, Kagan & Skolnick (1993), pp.69-94 Pylypa (1998), pp. 21-36	Academic Drop Deadline
9/20	Law as a Colonial Project	Comaroff & Comaroff (1997), pp. 365-404	
9/25	Law as a Colonial Project	Merry (2000), pp. 221-257	https://bit.ly/39JsGru https://bit.ly/3EY5hkb
9/27	Law as a Constitutive Force	Engel (1984), pp. 551-582	
10/2	Law as a Constitutive Force	McCann (2001), pp.113-178	Documentary: <i>Hot Coffee: Is Justice in Being Served?</i> (We will watch this in class)
10/4	Law as a Cultural Construct	Chase (2005), pp.1-71 (Recommended: Ewick & Silbey (1998), pp.15-32	Suggested Video: https://bit.ly/3afd7YC
10/9-11	NO CLASS	FALL BREAK	
10/16	REVIEW	SESSION	
10/18	TEST-1	TEST-1	TEST-1
10/23	Law and Dispute Resolution	Galanter (1974), pp.95-151 Miller & Sarat (1980-81), pp. 525-566 (Recommended: Grande (1999),	

		pp.63-70)	
10/25	Legal Pluralism	Merry (1988), pp. 869-896 Calavita (2016), pp. 86-108	
10/30	Law as a Coercive Power	Cover (1986), pp.1-25	
11/1	Law as a Coercive Power	Sarat (2001), pp. 33-59 Zimring (2003), pp.89-118	
11/6	Law as an Agent of Change	Calavita (2016), pp. 135-170 Sezgin (2010), pp.245-259	
11/8	Law as an Agent of Change	Rosenberg (1991), pp.9-36 Ginsburg (2004), pp. 493-502	
11/13	Law as a Hindrance	Rothstein (2017), pp. 1-10, 41-71, 157-170 Calavita (2016), pp. 59-85	Suggested Video: https://bit.ly/3lXI09A
11/15	Why do People Obey the Law?	McAdams (2015), pp. 233-259, Tyler (2006), pp. 3-7, 40-46, 71-84, 161-169 (Recommended: Fine & Rooij (2021), pp.367-391)	
11/20-22	NO CLASS	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
11/27	REVIEW	SESSION	
11/29	TEST-2	TEST-2	TEST-2
12/4	Justice, Law, and Civil Disobedience	Chenoweth (2021), pp.1-141	Suggested Videos: https://bit.ly/3CCVbnU https://bit.ly/3CEmK04 https://bit.ly/3yh3zrB
12/6	Justice, Law, and Civil Disobedience	Delmas (2018), pp. 1-46 A Force More Powerful -Study Guide, pp. 1-17	Documentary: A Force More Powerful Part-I: https://bit.ly/3iD6fJL Part-II: https://bit.ly/3m8T6dJ (We will watch this in class)
12/11	L&S in the News	No Reading/Work on your portfolios	L&S in the News Report