Sociology of Law

Sociology Department, University of Toronto
SOC6306H, Fall 2017

Time: 9:00-11:00am, Tuesday
Location: Room 240, 725 Spadina Ave.
Instructor: Professor Sida Liu
Office Hours: 11:00am-12:00pm, Tuesday
Email: sd.liu@utoronto.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is a graduate-level seminar that focuses on the deep reading and intensive discussion of socio-legal theories and empirical studies. We begin with classical and contemporary socio-legal theories and then proceed to various topics of law and society research, including law in everyday life, court and litigation, the legal profession, law in the workplace, law and social movements, law and the state, human rights and violence, legal change, and globalization of law.

REQUIREMENTS
Reading is at the heart of this seminar. Please make sure to complete all the assigned readings before coming to every class. For each week, one or two students are responsible for presenting the readings and raising a number of questions for discussion. The class discussion is organized around those questions as well as other questions that the instructor and the students raise in the classroom. Reading and class participation account for 20% of the final grade.

Besides reading and class participation, the requirements of the course include a short midterm paper and a long final paper. The midterm paper is a 5-page (double-spaced) theoretical essay on a given topic of socio-legal theory, which is due at class on October 17 (Tuesday). The midterm paper accounts for 30% of the final grade. The final paper can be either a research paper (or proposal) investigating an empirical socio-legal question, or a review paper that integrates, compares, and critically assesses some of the course readings. For Ph.D. students, a research paper that aims at thesis or publication is highly recommended. The minimum length of the final paper is 20 pages (double-spaced). A one-page outline of the paper is due at class on November 14 (Tuesday). The deadline for the final paper is 5:00pm on December 18 (Monday). The final paper accounts for 50% of the final grade.

OFFICE HOURS
The instructor’s office hours are 11:00am-12:00pm on Tuesday and by appointment. Please feel free to stop 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 in person or via video-conferencing.
READING SCHEDULE

Week 1: Course Introduction
September 12 (Tuesday)

Week 2: Classical Theories
September 19 (Tuesday)

Week 3: Contemporary Theories
September 26 (Tuesday)

Week 4: Law in Everyday Life
October 3 (Tuesday)
Week 5: Court and Litigation

October 10 (Tuesday)

Week 6: The Legal Profession

October 17 (Tuesday)

Week 7: Law in the Workplace

October 24 (Tuesday)
Week 8: Law and Social Movements  
October 31 (Tuesday)  

----- FALL BREAK (November 6-10) ------

Week 9: Law and the State  
November 14 (Tuesday)  

Week 10: Human Rights and Violence  
November 21 (Tuesday)  
Week 11: Legal Change
November 28 (Tuesday)

Week 12: Globalization of Law
December 5 (Tuesday)