SOC6106H – Sociology of Law – Winter 2022

Professor Sida Liu (Email: sd.liu@utoronto.ca)
Time: 4:00-6:00pm, Wednesday
Location: Room 240, 725 Spadina Avenue
Office Hours: by appointment
Course Website: Quercus

Course Description
This course is a graduate-level seminar that focuses on the deep reading and intensive discussion of theories and empirical studies in the sociology of law. We begin with classical sociolegal theories and then proceed to various topics of law and society research, including law in everyday life, court and litigation, law in the workplace, the legal profession, legal mobilization, law and the state, violence and human rights, law in space, law in time, and law and globalization.

Readings
Reading is at the heart of this seminar. Please make sure to complete all the assigned readings before coming to every class. In each week, the readings should be read and discussed as a whole body of texts, regardless of the specific combination of books, articles, or book chapters.

All the selected reading materials are available electronically through the U of T library website. As a Ph.D. student, it is important for you to develop the habit and skills of finding academic sources through the library. Therefore, no material accessible through the U of T library will be posted on Quercus and you are expected to find them by searching the library catalogue. If you experience any difficulty finding a specific course reading, please email the instructor and it will be made available to you.

Course Requirements
Class Participation
Seminar is the basic format of the classes, i.e., no lecture or in-class student presentation, but a group discussion of the assigned readings and Quercus essays of that week. You are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Class participation accounts for 20% of your final mark.

Quercus Weekly Essays
You are required to write and post to Quercus eight 500-word reflective essays on eight weeks of the course readings during Weeks 2-12. Please note that these essays are NOT summaries or reading responses. Instead, you are expected to focus on one major argument or finding from that week’s readings and critically challenge or problematize it in your essay. You may choose which eight weeks (out of eleven weeks) to write your essays – in other words, you have three “free tickets” not to write a weekly essay during the term. Each essay must be posted to the “Discussion” board on Quercus by **12:00pm (noon) on Wednesday** to give the instructor and your classmates enough time to read it before class. These eight essays account for 40% of your final mark.

**Final Paper**

The final paper of this course is a research paper on a selected topic based on course materials. Specific instructions will be given later in the term. The due date is **22 April 2022 (Friday) at 5:00pm**. The final paper accounts for 40% of your final mark.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1 (January 12): Course Introduction**

**Week 2 (January 19): Classical Theories**

**Week 3 (January 26): Law in Everyday Life**

**Week 4 (February 2): Court and Litigation**
October 10 (Tuesday)

Week 5 (February 9): Law in the Workplace

Week 6 (February 16): The Legal Profession

----- READING WEEK (February 21-25) -----

Week 8 (March 9): Law and the State

Week 9 (March 16): Violence and Human Rights

Week 10 (March 23): Law in Space

Week 11 (March 30): Law in Time
Week 12 (April 6): Law and Globalization

Penalty for Lateness
For graduate courses, instructors are not obliged to accept late work, except where there are legitimate, documented reasons beyond a student’s control. As a result, students will not be able to postpone or “make up” writing assignments or class participation. If a weekly essay is not submitted by the deadline, then that portion of the grade will be lost. For the final paper, papers submitted beyond the due date will receive a late penalty of 10% marks per day, including weekends and holidays. If a student has a legitimate, documented reason beyond their own control for missing classes or assignments, only then will a student be offered a different opportunity to complete that portion of the grade.

Academic Integrity Clause
Copying, plagiarizing, falsifying medical certificates, or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Any student caught engaging in such activities will be referred to the Dean’s office for adjudication. Any student abetting or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties. Students are expected to cite sources in all written work and presentations. See this link for tips on how to use sources well: (http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize).
According to Section B.I.1.(e) of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters it is an offence “to submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.”
By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by the university’s rules regarding academic conduct, as outlined in the Calendar. You are expected to be familiar with the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/The-rules/code/the-code-of-behaviour-on-academic-matters) and Code of Student Conduct (http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/codeofstudentconduct.htm) which spell out your rights, your duties and provide all the details on grading regulations and academic offences at the University of Toronto.
Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their
essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

**Accessiblity Services**

It is the University of Toronto’s goal to create a community that is inclusive of all persons and treats all members of the community in an equitable manner. In creating such a community, the University aims to foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of all persons. Please see the University of Toronto Governing Council “Statement of Commitment Regarding Persons with Disabilities” at http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppnov012004.pdf.

In working toward this goal, the University will strive to provide support for, and facilitate the accommodation of individuals with disabilities so that all may share the same level of access to opportunities, participate in the full range of activities that the University offers, and achieve their full potential as members of the University community. We take seriously our obligation to make this course as welcoming and accessible as feasible for students with diverse needs. We also understand that disabilities can change over time and will do our best to accommodate you. Students seeking support must have an intake interview with a disability advisor to discuss their individual needs. In many instances it is easier to arrange certain accommodations with more advance notice, so we strongly encourage you to act as quickly as possible. To schedule a registration appointment with a disability advisor, please visit Accessibility Services at http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as, call at 416-978-8060, or email at: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca. The office is located at 455 Spadina Avenue, 4th Floor, Suite 400.

Additional student resources for distressed or emergency situations can be located at distressedstudent.utoronto.ca; Health & Wellness Centre, 416-978-8030, http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc, or Student Crisis Response, 416-946-7111.

**Equity and Diversity Statement**

**Equity and Diversity**

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated.

Additional information and reports on Equity and Diversity at the University of Toronto is available at http://equity.hrandequity.utoronto.ca.