

CRIJ 4330.01
Law and Society
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Fall 2017

Classroom: TWC 130
Class Hours 11:00-12:20 Tu & Th

Professor: Dr. Jurg Gerber
Office: Hotel Office 222
Phone: 936-294-3172
Office Hours: MO, WE 10:00 – 12:00
TH 1:00 – 3:00 The Woodlands Center

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Course Description

Catalogue: The nature, functions, limitation and objectives of law; civil procedure, civil law and selected social problems, for example abortion, euthanasia, the civil courts, the grand jury and petit jury; torts, civil liability for police and correctional officers; family law.

Objectives: This course will focus on the social underpinnings of law. Unlike most classes that are taught in law schools with their emphasis on narrow legal issues, we will analyze the relationship between law and society.

Required Readings

Vago, Steven. 2012. *Law and Society: tenth edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Additional readings may be placed on Blackboard.

Grading

First Examination	100 Points
Second Examination	100 Points
Final Examination	<u>100 Points</u>
Total	300 Points

Grade Distribution

270-300 Points	A
240-269 Points	B
210-239 Points	C
180-209 Points	D
0-179 Points	F

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be given.

Make-up Examinations

All requests for make-up examinations must be documented and made in advance. All make-up examinations are in the form of **mandatory essays**.

Student Academic Policies

Policies concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

Use of Telephones and Text Messages in Academic Classrooms and Facilities

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>

With respect to tests, the following stipulation will be followed:

“Any use of a telephone or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty.”

Tobacco Products

There will be no use of tobacco products allowed in the classroom at any time. Violators of this policy will be warned one time; the second instance of use will result in dismissal from the class.

Electronic Devices in the Class Room

Students are free to record class lectures and/or discussions with the understanding that no copies of these lectures and/or transcripts made from these recordings are sold or otherwise distributed for use by others. Please make sure to set any electronic communication devices to “silent mode” during class sessions.

SHSU Writing Center

The Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Farrington Hall 111, is open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment in any subject. You can drop by to work with a tutor or call (936) 294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

Annotated Outline of Topics

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
8/22	Orientation	
8/29	Introduction	Chapter 1
9/5	Introduction	Chapter 1
	Sociological perspective, definitions of law, types of law, legal systems, functions and dysfunctions of law	
9/12	Theories	Chapter 2
	Emergence of legal systems, development of legal systems, theories of law and society	
9/19	Researching Law	Chapter 9
9/26	Researching Law	Chapter 9
	Methods of inquiry, impact on social policy, evaluation research	
9/28	First Examination	
10/3	Organization	Chapter 3
10/10	Organization	Chapter 3
	Functions of Courts, state vs. federal courts, professions in courts, legislatures, administrative agencies, law enforcement	
10/17	Law Making	Chapter 4
	Lawmaking theories, legislative and judicial lawmaking, administrative lawmaking, role of the media	
10/24	Social Control	Chapter 5
10/31	Social Control	Chapter 5
	External and internal social control, sanctions, purposes of punishment, deterrence, different types of crimes and their control	
11/2	Second Examination	
11/7	Conflict Resolution	Chapter 6

Social conflicts, settlement means, litigation,
litigants, disputes between and among individuals
and organizations

11/14	Social Change	Chapter 7
11/21	Social Change	Chapter

Definition, reciprocal relationship between law and
social change, law as a dependent and independent
variable, resistance to change

11/23 Thanksgiving Break

11/28	Profession	Chapter 8
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Professionalization, history, contemporary practices, money, competition,
training, admission to the bar

12/7 Thursday: Final Examination, 12:00 – 2:00 PM
(<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/calendars/final-exam-schedules.html>)