

# Soc. 435, Spring 2008

# Sociology of Law

**Professor: Dr. Dan Doyle**

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Note: When contacting the professor or teaching assistant by email, a student should use his or her UM "official" (eg.: umontana or grizmail) email address.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to examine law from a sociological perspective. The class will consist of three units. The first unit is an introductory unit that covers the history of law, traditional legal philosophies, and the emergence of the sociology of law. The second unit covers the sociology of law of Emile Durkheim and Max Weber. The third unit focuses on Karl Marx's legal theory and the sociology of civil rights law.

It is strongly suggested that you take Sociology 110 (Principles of Sociology), Sociology 235 (Criminal Justice) and either Sociology 230 (Criminology) or Sociology 330 (Juvenile Delinquency) prior to taking this class.

## READINGS

The text for this course is: Law/Society: Origins, Interactions, and Change by John R. Sutton (Pine Forge Press, 2001).

You will be reading approximately 80% of this book. There will also be other readings placed on library reserve or otherwise made available.

## TESTING AND GRADES

Three tests consisting of a combination of multiple choice, short answer and true/false questions will be administered during the course of the semester. Each test is worth up to 100 points. The 3rd exam for this class is scheduled on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:10 PM. A student's grade will be based on the total number of points earned. (Note that the required points for each grade does not correspond to the 90%, 80%, 70%, etc. system used in some UM classes.) Grades will be assigned as follows:

274 points or above	A	202 to 225.5 points	D
250 to 273.5 points	B	201.5 points or below	F
226 to 249.5 points	C		

If the total number of points earned falls below but close to the cutoff for a particular grade, the higher grade may be assigned if the student has demonstrated excellent attendance and class participation. Plus or minus grades will not be used.

## **A FEW OTHER CLASS POLICIES**

No "extra credit" assignments or projects will be allowed.

To receive a grade other than an F, a student must take all of the tests.

If a student will not be able to take a test on time, prior notification of the professor is required. A message can be left on voice mail or email 24 hours a day. Failure to provide prior notification can result in the student receiving zero points for that exam.

Those taking the class on a Credit/No Credit basis must earn at least 202 points in order to receive credit.

Attendance and active class participation are expected and may be taken into consideration in the assignment of final grades in marginal cases.

The final exam for this class will take place on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:10 PM. Students should plan their schedules accordingly.

To protect privacy, test scores and course grades will not be given out over the telephone or via email. Students must approach the instructor in person.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available at: <http://ordway.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/name/StudentConductCode>.

## **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

Teaching and learning are most likely to take place where the classroom environment is one characterized by mutual respect and freedom from unnecessary distractions. Below are some comments regarding the responsibilities of instructors and students in maintaining a good classroom environment. The instructor, teaching assistant, and preceptor will work hard to adhere to these guidelines and students will be expected to do likewise.

Vital to the whole notion of a university is the free exchange of ideas. Such an exchange is more likely in an atmosphere free from ridicule, insults, or personal attacks. Instructors must deal with their students in a respectful fashion. Likewise, students must demonstrate respect in their communications with instructors and other students.

Late arrivals and early departures decrease the learning time available, interrupt the flow of class, and are distracting to all. Both the instructor and the student need to be in the classroom and ready to begin class at the scheduled starting time. Except in the case of sudden illness or other emergency, early departures should be avoided. If because of extraordinary circumstances, a student knows that he or she has to leave early, that student should let the instructor know before class and sit in a location where he or she can depart with minimal interruption. The instructor should be careful to avoid keeping the students in class past the scheduled ending time. In turn, students should refrain from packing up their belongings and/or leaving prior to being dismissed by the instructor.

It is also distracting when students engage in private conversations, use cell phones, listen to headphones, surf the internet on laptop computers or other devices, or read the newspaper or other non-class materials during class. Cell phones, pagers, and similar devices must be adjusted so that they do not ring, beep, or buzz audibly during class.

The exercise of common courtesy on the part of both the instructor and the students will enhance the success of this class.