**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the relationship between law and ideology with particular reference to current controversies, legal reasoning in substantive areas of law, and how law operates as a method of social control, a challenge or reinforcement of concentrations of power, and a facilitator of social change. The principal goal of this course is to develop an understanding of the role of sociological theory and research in understanding law and its ideological underpinnings.

**PREREQUISITES**

Entry to fourth year courses is restricted to students who have been admitted to the honours program in Sociology. Prior courses in criminology and criminal justice are recommended but not required.

**INTENDED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. To understand and apply sociological perspectives when formulating understanding of the law
2. To increase appreciation of the complex web of social factors at play within the law and legal institutions.
3. Offer possible answers to important questions about law and society: Why do we need laws? What is the role of law in society? In whose interests is the law designed? Are all citizens equal under the law or do some benefit disproportionately? Why do individuals obey the law? Why do we punish lawbreakers? What is the relationship between the law and social values and norms?
4. Select a research topic, formulate a research questions, and research the question by synthesizing it with the existing literature on the topic.

5. Critically evaluate major debates in the discipline.

6. Communicate sociological knowledge in a concise, clear and correct manner in writing in individual, partnered and/or group settings.

**ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Assessment of learning outcomes will take place through a variety of methods, including: two short essays, a presentation, readings responses, and class participation.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

There is one textbook for the course. The textbook is available for purchase at the Campus Bookstore and for loan at the Reserve Desk at Stauffer library. The textbook can also be purchased from Amazon and other retailers.


There is also a collection of articles and book chapters. These readings are available through the Queen’s library system. The reading list is provided in the Course Schedule below.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1**

**10 September**

**Course Introduction**

- Deflem (textbook), Chapter 1.

**Week 2**

**17 September**

**Classical Theories**

- Deflem (textbook), Chapters 2 & 3.
Week 3
24 September
Contemporary Theories

- Deflem (textbook), Chapters 4-6.

Week 4
1 October
Legal Subjectivities: Law in Everyday Life

- Deflem (textbook), Chapter 10.

Week 5
8 October
Courts and Litigation

- Deflem (textbook), Chapter 11.
Week 6
15 October
The Legal Profession
- Deflem (textbook), Chapter 9.

Week 7
22 October
Law in the Workplace
*Short Essay 1 (Law Creation) due*
- Deflem (textbook), Chapter 7.

Midterm Break 24, 25 October

Week 8
29 October
Law and Social Movements
Week 9
5 November
Law and the State

- Deflem (textbook), Chapter 8.

Week 10
12 November
Human Rights and Violence


Week 11
19 November
Legal Change


Week 12
26 November
Globalization of Law

- Deflem (textbook), Chapter 12.

10 December
*Short Essay 2 (Law in Action) due*

**Grading Scheme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Date(s) Due</th>
<th>Percentage (individual items)</th>
<th>Percentage (grouped)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading responses</td>
<td>8 of weeks 2-13 (can skip 3 weeks)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation 1</td>
<td>Sign up</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation 2</td>
<td>Sign up</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Essay 1 (Law Creation)</td>
<td>22 October</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Essay 2 (Law in Action)</td>
<td>10 December</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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**Requirements**

**Reading Responses:** Each week you are required to submit a 500-word (approx.) analysis of the main themes and arguments in the assigned readings for that week at the start of class. The readings response should be a fully integrated reflective essay, not a simple combination of summaries of individual readings. Include the word count at the end of your entry.

Your first submission will be due for the Week 2 readings. You will submit a total of 8 reading responses. You choose which weeks/topics you prefer. Each submission counts for 2% of your final grade. You will be automatically assigned 1% for submitting the response (unless it is of such dubious quality that it does not deserve a grade), and another 1% will be added to your grade if the response is excellent.

**Presentations:** Each student will deliver 2 presentations during the term. Each presentation consists of a 15-minute overview (e.g., summary and your assessment) of an assigned research article, followed by a short class discussion of questions you raise. A sign-up sheet will be posted on my office door during the first week of classes. Choose by topics that interest you or weeks that fit best with your course schedule. Presentations will begin in week 3.

**Class Participation:** You are expected to attend class, read assigned course material before class, and prepare for, lead, and participate in classroom discussions. You are expected to be respectful of fellow classmates in discussions and lectures, curious and open-minded about
others’ and one’s own perspectives, and cultivate an environment of mutual growth through collaboration and dialogue. A grade for your overall class participation will be given by the instructor at the end of the term and it accounts for 14% of your final grade.

In a discussion seminar, it is essential that all participants stay focused on the group and the conversation at all times. For that reason, the use of laptop computers and other mobile electronic devices is not permitted during class. I recommend that you print the assigned readings on a weekly basis and bring them to class, or alternatively, take notes on the readings and bring a printed copy of your notes to class. Discussion and group work will allow access to open-book (paper) materials.

**Short Essay 1 (Law Creation):** The first short essay (10 pages double-spaced) assignment will ask students to explore the creation of a specific law in the Canadian context. The assignment, distributed in the second week of classes, is due 22 October 2019 in class. The first short essay counts for 20% of your final grade.

**Short Essay 2 (Law in Action):** The second short essay (10 pages double-spaced) assignment will ask students to use course readings to analyze an empirical topic in the sociology of law. The assignment, distributed in the 11th week of classes, is due 10th December 2019 at 11:30 AM. The second short essay accounts for 30% of your final grade.

**Grading Method**

*Queen’s Official Grade Conversion Scale*

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen’s Official Grade Conversion Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Course Average (Range)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>53-56</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>49 and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Location and Timing of Final Examinations**

The exam dates for each term are listed on the Faculty of Arts and Science webpage under “Important Dates.” Student exam schedules for the Fall Term are posted via SOLUS immediately prior to the Thanksgiving holiday; for the Winter Term they are posted on the Friday before Reading Week, and for the Summer Term they are individually noted on the Arts and Science Online syllabi. **Students should delay finalizing any travel plans until after the**
examination schedule has been posted. Exams will not be moved or deferred to accommodate employment, travel/holiday plans or flight reservations. Also, as indicated in Academic Regulation 8.3, students must write all final examination in all on-campus courses on the Kingston campus.

**LATE POLICY**
Reading responses will not be accepted after the deadline (but you can take advantage of the 3 weeks you opt not to complete a reading response). Essays 1 and 2 each offer a 3-day grace period. After the 72-hour grace period, a 10% per day penalty applies to late essays. After 7 days from the original due date, essays will not be accepted without medical or other official documentation.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
Queen’s students, faculty, administrators and staff all have responsibilities for upholding the fundamental values of academic integrity; honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage (see [www.academicintegrity.org](http://www.academicintegrity.org)). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities [http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies senate/report-principles-and-priorities](http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies senate/report-principles-and-priorities)).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments and their behaviour conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 [http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1](http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1)), on the Arts and Science website (see [https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-integrity](https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-integrity)), and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

**Plagiarism:** Please note that we have had issues in the past with unintended plagiarism in this course. Regardless of how and where you retrieve information, the principles of academic integrity apply. Please visit these helpful websites to help you make sure that you are able to write things in your own words:
- [https://www.queensu.ca/academicintegrity/students/avoiding-plagiarismcheating](https://www.queensu.ca/academicintegrity/students/avoiding-plagiarismcheating)
- [https://integrity.mit.edu/handbook/academic-writing/avoiding-plagiarism-paraphrasing](https://integrity.mit.edu/handbook/academic-writing/avoiding-plagiarism-paraphrasing)

**Group work:** You are permitted to work with a partner to encourage collaboration, cooperation and collective learning on one or both essay assignments. You must work independently on your reading responses (weekly assignment).
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (SHORT VERSION)
You do not need to cheat. You do not want to cheat. Very bad things will happen if you cheat. Do not cheat.

COPYRIGHT OF COURSE MATERIALS (lectures, PowerPoint slides, syllabus, lab assignments)
This material is designed for use as part of SOCY458 at Queen’s University and is the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters and articles) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) can lead to a violation of Copyright law. Find out more about copyright here: http://library.queensu.ca/copyright.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES
Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for people with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. The Senate Policy for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities was approved at Senate in November 2016 (see https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.uslcwww/files/files/policies/senateandtrustees/ACADACCOMMPOLICY2016.pdf). If you are a student with a disability and think you may need academic accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Queen's Student Accessibility Services (QSAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the QSAS website at: http://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services/

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENTS IN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES
Queen’s University is committed to providing academic consideration to students experiencing extenuating circumstances that are beyond their control and are interfering with their ability to complete academic requirements related to a course for a short period of time. The Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Students in Extenuating Circumstances is available at http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.uslcwww/files/files/policies/senateandtrustees/Academic%20Considerations%20for%20Extenuating%20Circumstances%20Policy%20Final.pdf

Each Faculty has developed a protocol to provide a consistent and equitable approach in dealing with requests for academic consideration for students facing extenuating circumstances. Arts and Science undergraduate students can find the Faculty of Arts and Science protocol and the portal where a request can be submitted at: http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/accommodations. Students in other Faculties and Schools who are enrolled in this course should refer to the protocol for their home Faculty.

If you need to request academic consideration for this course, you will be required to provide the name and email address of the instructor/coordinator. Please use the following:
Instructor name: Dr. F. Kay
Instructor e-mail address: kayf@queensu.ca
OTHER GRADING MATTERS
Grade Reappraisal: Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one’s mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that the grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Posting of Grades: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments and exams from a public place (e.g., outside a professor’s office, the department office, etc.) or posting grades on office doors or on-line. University policies prohibit instructors from sending grades via e-mail. Assignments and examination results must be returned to students individually, during class or during the professor’s office hours.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS
Asking questions: Students are welcome to ask questions in class and during posted office hours. If you wish to discuss a matter specific to you (for example, missing a test, disability accommodation, help with a written assignment), please come by my office. I like talking with students and I would rather help you in person than send e-mail replies.

E-mail: When sending e-mail messages, remember to address the recipient by name, sign the e-mail note with your full name, use your Queen’s e-mail account, and use full words and sentences for clarity of expression. Treat e-mails as you would any other professional communication. Use e-mail to send me a disability accommodation letter or to book an appointment outside office hours.

Class notes: If you miss class, ask to copy the notes from one of your classmates. Then see the professor to clarify anything you do not understand. I am happy to assign supplementary readings in the event of missed classes.

Grading: At the end of the semester, I compute a total score for each student (for example, 83.5 out of 100 possible points). I then make cut-points for the grades based on the class distribution of scores. I try to ensure that students who do all the readings, attend the lectures and participate actively can generally earn grades of B or better in my classes. Blowing off readings or lectures is almost certain to hurt your grade.

Attendance: We will not be taking attendance in class, but missing class more than twice is likely to compromise your grade.

Reading: You should expect to read and understand about 75-120 pages of the textbook and research articles weekly.

Classroom etiquette:
• You are entitled to a good learning environment in the classroom. Students whose behavior is disruptive either to the instructor or to other students will be asked to leave.
- Do not text, check e-mail or surf the internet during class. This disrupts other students’ learning and is disrespectful to me.
- Videotaping and recording lectures are strictly forbidden without written permission in advance from the instructor. This is to protect the privacy rights of students in our class.

**Useful Websites**
- Counselling Services: [https://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/counselling-services](https://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/counselling-services)
- Queen’s Student Accessibility Services (QSAS): [https://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services](https://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services)
- Accommodations Explained: [https://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services/accommodations-explained](https://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services/accommodations-explained)
- On-Campus Services: Student Academic Success Services (SASS), Adaptive Technology Centre, Regional Assessment Resource Centre, Tutoring, Career Services: [https://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services/campus-services](https://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services/campus-services)
- Student Academic Success Services (SASS): [http://sass.queensu.ca/](http://sass.queensu.ca/)
- Career Services: events, workshops, career counselling, drop-in career advising, and resources (e.g., tip sheets). Career Services also partners with organizations recruiting employees, internship and educational candidates: [https://careers.queensu.ca/](https://careers.queensu.ca/)
- Peer Academic Support Service (PASS) and Academic Advising: [https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/undergrad-students/pass-academic-advising](https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/undergrad-students/pass-academic-advising)
- Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre at [https://www.queensu.ca/fourdirections/home](https://www.queensu.ca/fourdirections/home)
- Ban Righ Foundation (women returning to education or continuing education while juggling family responsibilities): [https://banrighcentre.queensu.ca/services-and-programs/](https://banrighcentre.queensu.ca/services-and-programs/)
- International Centre (QUIC): [https://quic.queensu.ca/](https://quic.queensu.ca/)
- Arts & Science Undergraduate Society (ASUS): [https://www.queensasus.com/](https://www.queensasus.com/)

**Useful web-links for researching law and criminology**
- Life of the Law: [http://www.lifeofthelaw.org/#&panel1-1](http://www.lifeofthelaw.org/#&panel1-1)
- Open Global Rights: [http://www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights](http://www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights)
- The Society Pages: [http://thesocietypages.org/](http://thesocietypages.org/)
- Public Criminology: [http://thesocietypages.org/pubcrim/](http://thesocietypages.org/pubcrim/)

**Law Library**
You will want to venture into the Queen’s University Lederman law library (downstairs in MacDonald Hall on Union Street). The library offers a wealth of books, journals, government reports, statutes and legal codes, and cases. The law librarians are available to help as you learn how to search legal cases and judicial decisions.

**Research Journals**
Both Stauffer library and Lederman Law libraries (also accessible via on-line through the Queen’s University library website) offer the opportunity to search journal articles in sociology, criminology, and law disciplines.