

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: JS 2010 LE LAW & SOCIETY

(Updated Spring 2022)

UK LEVEL 4
UK CREDITS: 15
US CREDITS: 3/0/3

PREREQUISITES:

None

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Definitions, origins, development, functions, systems and perspectives of law; theories on law and justice; overview of the U.S. judicial and legislative system and the legal profession; interaction between law and society; law and (in)equality, diversity, privacy; and human rights.

RATIONALE:

This course offers students an introduction to law and justice and informs them about the relationship between law and society. Students are not only exposed to various theoretical approaches to law and justice but are given the opportunity to see how the law is in constant interaction with society through the discussion of contemporary topics that raise human rights, diversity, equality and privacy concerns, and with reference to landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:
1. Demonstrate understanding of the various definitions, systems, perspectives and functions of law.
 2. Explain the role of legal institutions in creating law and resolving disputes.
 3. Demonstrate understanding of the various theories on law and justice and identify human rights, diversity, equality and privacy concerns on national and international level.
 4. Assess the interaction between law and society in an era of widespread protection of civil liberties and technological advances.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:

- In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:
- Classes will consist of lectures and class discussions on selected topics.
 - Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their lecturer, where they can address issues and ask questions pertinent to the course material.
 - Use of a blackboard site, where instructor posts lecture notes, assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources.

ASSESSMENT:

Summative:

First assessment: Mid-term examination (essay-type questions)	40%
Final assessment: Final examination (essay-type questions)	60%

The **first assessment** tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.
The **final assessment** (final exam) tests Learning Outcomes 2. 3 and

	<p>4.</p> <p><i>Students are required to resit failed assessments in this module.</i></p>
INDICATIVE READING:	<p>Required Reading</p> <p>Textbook: Lippman, Matthew (2015). <i>Law and Society</i>, Sage Publications.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED READINGS (Specific pages will be assigned by the instructor where appropriate)</p> <p>Bates, Christopher G. and James Ciment, eds. (2013). <i>Global Social Issues: An Encyclopedia</i>, Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2013.</p> <p>Chowdhury, Azizur Rahman and Jahid Hossain Bhuiyan (eds.). (2010). <i>An Introduction to International Human Rights Law</i>, Leiden, Boston: Brill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotterrell, R. (2005). <i>The Sociology of Law, An Introduction</i>, 2nd ed., Oxford University Press. • Deflem, Matthieu (2008). <i>Sociology of Law, Visions of a Scholarly Tradition</i>, Cambridge University Press. • Kubicek, Theodore L. (2006). <i>Adversarial Justice: America's Court System on Trial</i>, New York: Algora Pub. • Nobles, Richard (2014). <i>Law, Society and Community: Socio-Legal Essays in Honour of Roger Cotterrell</i>, Farnham: Ashgate Publishing Ltd. • Ritchie, Donald A. (2010). <i>The U.S. Congress: A Very Short Introduction</i>, New York: Oxford University Press. • Savage, David G. (2010). <i>Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court</i>, Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.
INDICATIVE MATERIAL: (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	<p>REQUIRED MATERIAL: N/A</p> <p>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: N/A</p>
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	Verbal skills using academic / professional English.
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	Word
WWW RESOURCES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States Constitution: http://usconstitution.net/ • United States Supreme Court: http://www.supremecourt.gov/default.aspx • United States Courts: http://www.uscourts.gov/Home.aspx • United States Congress: https://www.congress.gov/ • United Nations: http://www.un.org/en/index.html • American Bar Association: http://www.americanbar.org/aba.html • American Civil Liberties Union: https://www.aclu.org/

INDICATIVE CONTENT:

I. Introduction to Law and Society

Definitions of law and distinction from other concepts; approaches to defining law; systems and traditions of law.

II. Functions and perspectives of law

Functions of law; legal doctrine and jurisprudence; perspectives on law and society: consensus perspective vs. conflict perspective.

III. Theories on law and contemporary issues

1. Natural law vs. historical school

Natural law and universal principles vs. values, customs and beliefs of a given society; United Nations system and its primary branches.

Application through special topics such as FGM and same sex marriage.

2. Legal positivism

Legal positivism and the law as set forth; constitutional role and function of legislatures; legislative strategies for promoting social change.

Application through special topics such as the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide.

3. Legal realism and legal behavioralism

Legal realism; legal behavioralism; how judges decide a case; courts and dispute resolution; legal profession..

Application through special topics such as the Gacaca courts in Rwanda.

4. Sociological jurisprudence

The results the law achieves; courts and social change.

Application through special topics such as school integration.

5. Critical legal studies

Critical race theory; law, class and power.

Application through special topics such as racial profiling and stand your ground laws.

6. Feminist jurisprudence

Application through special topics such as abortion.

7. Libertarianism

Libertarianism and the maximization of individual freedom.

Application through special topics such as government surveillance and private sector online data collection.