

Soc 350: Law and Society
University of La Verne
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Fall 2015 Online

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SOC 350	Law and Society	4 Units
Prereq: WRT 111 or BUS 346		

GENERAL PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a broad overview of the law from a sociological perspective. Topics include legal systems, functions and dysfunctions of law, theoretical perspectives, law and social control, law and social change, and the legal profession. We will be covering criminal law, constitutional law, international law, administrative law, and environmental law. The law of the sea will be used as an illustration of international law and international environmental law.

REQUIRED READINGS

Lippman, M.R. (2015). *Law and Society*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications.
ISBN: 978-1-4129-8754-7

SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the term, each student who has successfully completed the course will be able to:

- 1) identify and discuss current issues, debates, and findings in the field of law and society
- 2) differentiate between legal and scientific thinking
- 3) understand the difference between justice and due process
- 4) assess the various influences on the law, such as politics, economics, norms, values, beliefs, and technology
- 5) explain the legal system and its functions
- 6) appreciate the complexity of criminal law, constitutional law, environmental law, and international law
- 7) analyze the role of law in both continuity and social change
- 8) compare domestic criminal law with international law

Grading

Chapter Reviews (13 @ 10 pts each)	130pts
Discussions (10 @ 20 pts each)	200pts
Current Events/Discussion Board (5 @ 20 points each)	100 pts
Mid Term	100 pts
Final Exam	100 pts
Law Presentation:	40pts
Total Points	670 pts

Grade Scale

100-98 = A+ 89-88 = B+ 79-78 = C+ 69-68 = D+

97-94 = A 87-84 = B 77-74 = C 67-64 = D

93-90 = A- 83-80 = B- 73-70 = C- 63-60 = D-

Below 59 = F

***Note:** There is total of 670 points possible for this class. In order to calculate your grade, add up the total points you receive and divide that by 670.

Exams

A mid-term and a final exam are required for the course.

The dates of the exams will be announced later.

Exams will be on-line via Blackboard).

Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, etc. and short answer items. A course announcement as well as an email will be sent out when the midterm and final dates will be scheduled.

Homework: You will complete the chapter review questions at the end of each chapter in our course. *Late homework will receive less than full credit or not be accepted at all. For due date please see Course Assignment link for our class course schedule.*

Please note you will upload your Homework as an attachment via the Homework link on the Course Menu. The first round and the second round of review questions should be uploaded as one document, not multiple documents.

Discussion Boards

Each week of the course you will be required to respond to the discussion board question, by Thursday midnight PST, you will also need to post at least 2 responses to your fellow classmates by Sunday at 12 midnight PST. The use of sources and Proper APA format should be used for your main discussion board responses. Main Discussion board posts are not accepted for credit after the db closes out on Sunday, if they are turned in after Thurs but by Sunday they will still count but will be marked down for being late.

Discussion board main post should be about 400-600 words.

Current Events

Current Events: About Every 2 weeks you will post on the discussion board (see discussion board area) in the correlating current event area in regards to a current event of your choice that has to do with a topic in the legal system.. Please note: you will be discussing the current event, not just merely reposting the information. Like your regular discussion boards this is also due, by Thursday midnight PST, you will also need to post at least 2 responses to your fellow classmates by Sunday at 12 midnight PST in regards to the current event. Please provide a link to the current event of your choice along with your work. Please See Assignments section of the course for a more detailed explanation. The Main current Event posts are not accepted for credit after the current event area closes out on Sunday, if they are turned in after Thurs but by Sunday they will still count but will be marked down for being late.

Current Event main post should be about 400-600 words, excluding the actual current event.

Law Presentation

Information on this task can be found under Course Assignments in Blackboard. The Power-Point will be submitted on to the db area as there is a discussion component part of this assignment that is required.

Participation/Attendance

In order to make this class interesting and worthwhile it is essential that you add to it. A good part of your grade depends on participation. Offering your opinion while being respectful to others, answering questions, posting to the discussion board and adding to the overall learning environment are what I look at. Don't be left out, this is your education, so participate! Participation in course discussions is a large part of your weekly grade. Discussion boards and discussion board responses must be completed the week they are due. Late discussion board posts and late responses to fellow classmates are not accepted for credit. Please make sure you are actively participating in weekly course discussions. Failure to participate in the class can lead to a failing grade in the course.

Academic Honesty

It is expected that you will maintain academic integrity at all times. This means doing your own work on discussion boards, exams, and class projects. Proper credit must be given to sources (which are required on all discussion boards and class projects) through the use of APA/ASA

format in written work (avoiding plagiarism). Is it never okay to copy and paste information off a website or a source and pass it off as your own work. Sources are meant to bolster your views, they are not meant to be your views. Plagiarism and cheating will result automatically in a grade of F in the course. Please refer to the university catalog on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity.

Please note that sources like Wikipedia are not academic sources as much of the information on such sites is either incorrect or plagiarized from other sources are not accepted source information for this course.

ULV Email

Please make sure to use or check your ULV email accounts this is where I will be sending all course information and correspondence too.

Classroom Etiquette

Be respectful to one another in the discussion boards.

Incompletes. I do not allow students to take an "Incomplete" for this course. If you do not believe you will be able to finish the course, you should withdraw early to get any refund of your tuition that you are due.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course syllabus at any time