Course Description
This course attempts to present the key theoretical traditions in the field of sociology of law. Since sociology of law is a vast field, the materials covered here are inevitably selective. The overall goal of the course is to explore sociologically the nature of Anglo-American law and develop an understanding of law as a social institution by drawing from various classical sociological perspectives.

Required Texts
All the course readings can be accessed via e-reserves (http://reserves.ucsd.edu/).

Course Requirements
Your grade for the quarter will be calculated on the basis of the following three course requirements:

1. A closed-book, in-class mid-term exam (30% of the grade) on October 22.
2. A take-home short essay (30% of the grade). The assignment will be distributed on November 10, and it is due at the beginning of class on November 19. I will not accept papers submitted by e-mail: so all papers must be submitted in typed hard-copy.
3. A closed-book, in-class final on December 8, covering the entire course (40% of the grade). No make-up exams without a doctor note detailing a medical excuse. Please do not enroll if you are not available to take the final exam on December 8.

4. Late submissions will be marked down unless a written medical excuse is presented.

5. Students should be familiar with the University's regulations concerning plagiarism and integrity of scholarship. If you have any questions about how it applies to this course, please ask the instructor.

6. Although attendance is not mandatory per se, it is impossible for you to get full participation if you are not in class. Additionally, since many of the exam questions will be generated from material that comes directly from the lectures and is not contained in your assigned readings, it is highly recommended that you attend class regularly.
Contacting the Instructor
1. I hold drop in office hours on **Tuesdays 10-11am** and on **Thursdays 12:30-1:30pm** in my office in Room 491 of Social Science Building (south of RIMAC). I am also available by appointment.

2. I try, within the limit of my free time, to respond to students’ emails; but please keep your email inquiries brief and specific. Email is not the medium for long discussions or detailed clarifications on the topics of the course. That should be done during office hours.

Schedule of Readings and Other Assignments

**Thursday September 24: First Meeting**

**Wk 1 Tuesday, September 29: Introduction**

*Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*  
http://www.constitution.org/fr/fr_drm.htm

**Part I – Durkheim: The Problem of Order**
As one of the founders of sociology, Durkheim himself displayed considerable interest in the law. He was one of the earliest thinkers about the criminal process; he wrote on a variety of law-related topics, like punishment and the law of contract. In *The Division of Labor*, he developed a typology of the evolution of the law which has had a strong influence on many later-generation sociologists of law.

**Thursday, October 1**

**Wk 2 Tuesday, October 6**


**Recommended:**  
Thursday, October 8


Wk 3 Tuesday, October 13


Part II – Marx: Law and Social Inequalities
Marxist thoughts attached primacy to the economic system. Marx’s theory of law and state can be roughly described as economic. Marx saw capitalistic society as a system that thrives on structural exploitation. The law appears as subsidiary to economic relations, with its primary purpose as stabilizing existing relations of distribution.

Thursday, October 15
Karl Marx “Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy” in *Tucker* 3-6.


Wk 4 Tuesday, October 20


Thursday, October 22
In-class Mid-Term
Wk 5 Tuesday, October 27


Thursday, October 29


Part III – Weber: Why People Obey the Law?
Weber was the first to try to develop a systematic sociology of law. More than that, he was the first to see the sociology of law as central to sociological theory. Weber was first trained as a lawyer and a legal historian. His central concern was to understand the development and characteristics of Western society, the most distinctive feature of which in its developed form was a particular form of capitalistic “rationalism.” The existence of rational legal order is a critical feature of capitalist society.

Wk 6 Tuesday, November 3


Thursday, November 5


Wk 7 Tuesday, November 10


**Essay Assignment Distributed**

**Part VI – Contemporary Law in Action**
In this final part, we consider law and legal systems in action. We take a look at some contemporary topics (such as globalization and legal consciousness) and the makeup of the legal profession.

**Thursday, November 12: Globalization of Law**


Recommended:

**Wk 8 Tuesday, November 17: Legal Consciousness**

Thursday, November 19: Fair Game?
Carroll Seron, Gregg Van Ryzin, Martin Frankel and Jean Kovath. 2001. “The Impact of Legal Counsel on Outcomes for Poor Tenants in New York City’s Housing Court: Results of a Randomized Experiment.” Law and Society Review 35(2):419-434. Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0023-9216%282001%2935%3A2%3C419%3AFLOCO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-M


Essay Assignment Due

Wk 9 Tuesday, November 24: Lawyers in the Common Law System


Recommended:


Thursday, November 26: No Class (Thanksgiving)

Wk 10 Tuesday, December 1:


Thursday, December 3: Concluding Discussion

Final Exam: December 8, 8:00 – 11:00