

CJL 3038

Law & Society



Fall 2024

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays

9:30 - 10:25

Little Hall 0127



Instructor:

Shelby Mikkelson

Pronouns:

she/her/hers

Email:

s.mikkelson@ufl.edu
(or use Canvas email)

Office Hours:

Mondays & Fridays
10:30(ish) - 11:30
Turlington Hall 2249

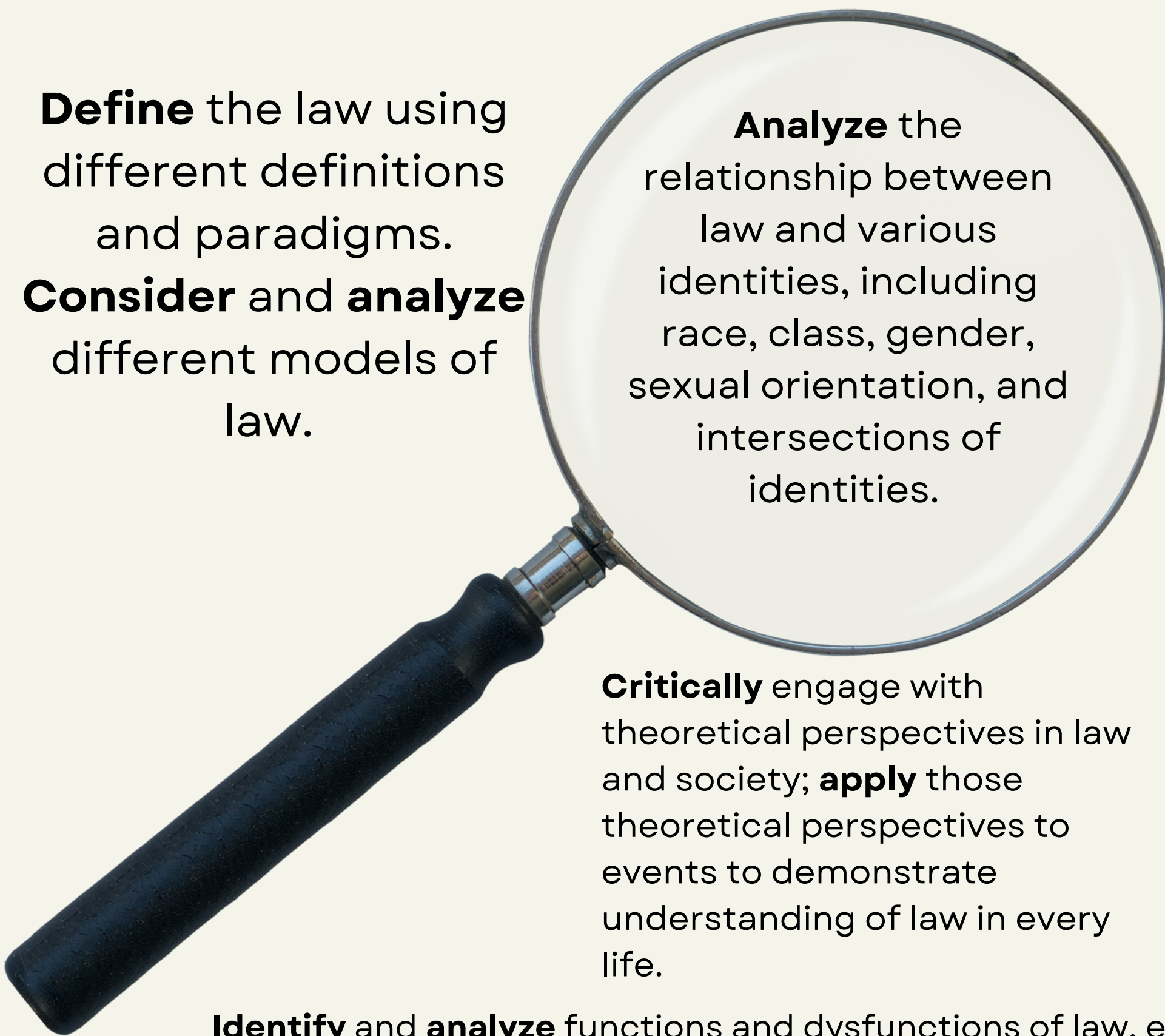
Course Description:

This course promotes a basic understanding of law, society, and the way they affect one another. This course introduces students to the scholarly study of law from a multidisciplinary perspective. We will examine legal ideas, legal institutions, and the legal process with emphasis on the study of criminal behavior and the American criminal justice process. This course is not intended to cover the content of law, but to critically evaluate the interaction between the law and the society in which it operates.

All of course materials and/or links will be available on Canvas.

BY THE END OF THIS COURSE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO...

Define the law using different definitions and paradigms.
Consider and **analyze** different models of law.



Analyze the relationship between law and various identities, including race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and intersections of identities.

Critically engage with theoretical perspectives in law and society; **apply** those theoretical perspectives to events to demonstrate understanding of law in every life.

Identify and **analyze** functions and dysfunctions of law, especially in circumstances in which dysfunctions contribute to inequalities or differential effects for marginalized groups.

Define basic choices one must consider in studying or creating law. **Explain** how various ways of knowing and value systems may contribute to our choices in creating law.

Describe the evolution and development of law, legal institutions, processes, and roles in the legal system. Critically analyze these concepts considering the theoretical perspectives and tough choices one considers in creating and discussing law.

Course Objectives

Assessments

Application

Assignments

Students will be required to find a current event (within the last 6 months) and critically evaluate the event, and connect the event with a topic discussed in class. There are 4 assigned. Full rubric is available on Canvas.

Weekly Reflections

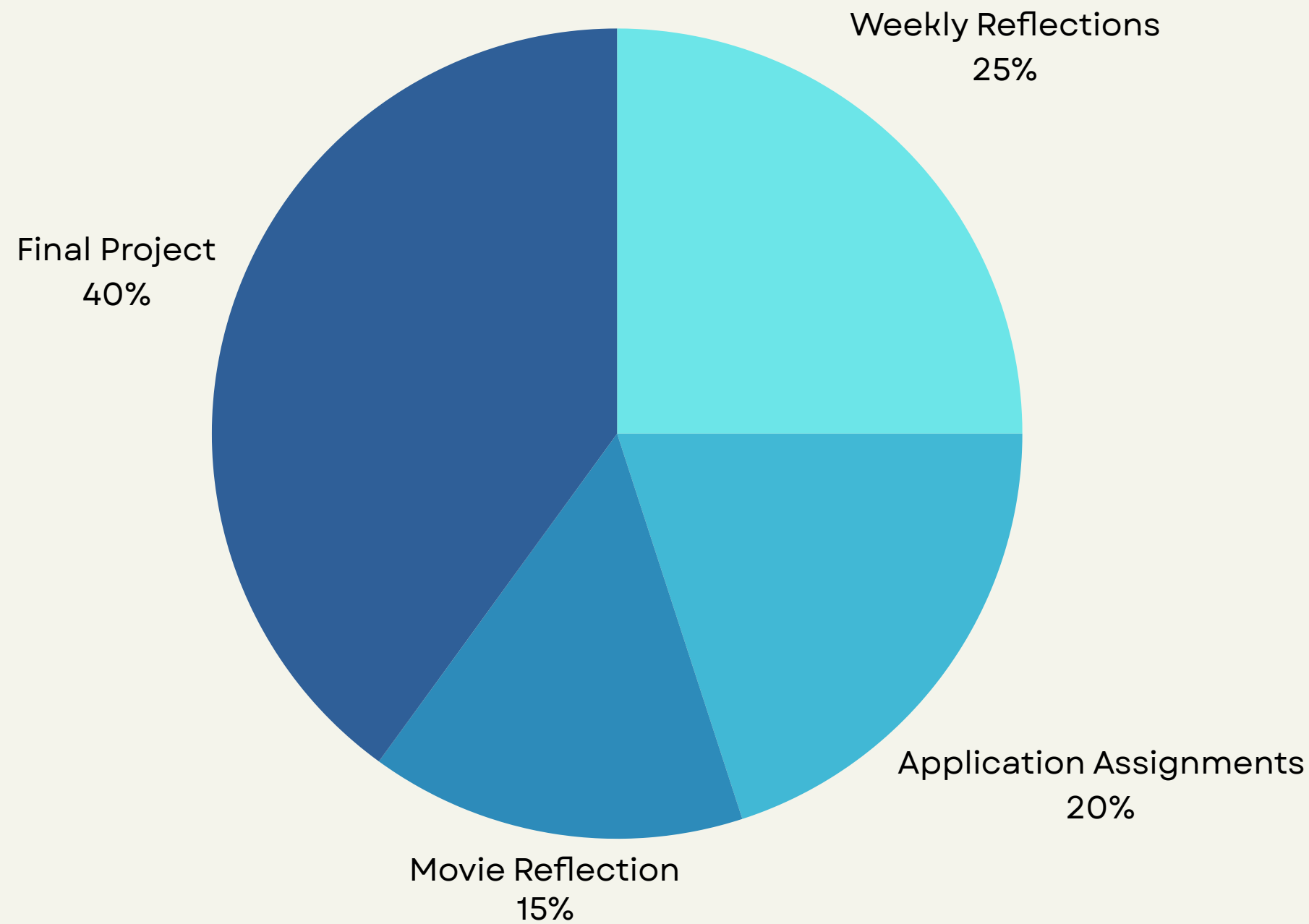
Every week students will submit a three paragraph reflection over that week's materials. In the first paragraph, students will discuss what they learned from the readings. In the second paragraph, students will discuss what they learned from class (lecture, class discussions, etc). In the third paragraph, students will discuss what they found most interesting, or what they still may have questions about. There are 13 weekly reflections assigned. Rubric is available on Canvas.

Final Project - Infographic

For the final project students will create their version of a "perfect" legal system. Students will be required to consider the different components of the legal system, and different types of legal systems. Students will then create an infographic that promotes their "perfect" legal system. Rubric and full instructions is available on Canvas.

Movie Reflections

Students will be asked to watch 1 movie relating to Law & Society. These movies are either documentaries or films based on a true story (i.e., Just Mercy). Students will be asked to write a short reflection/analysis paper. Students should identify some form of theme in the film and relate it to a topic from class. There are 3 assigned, students ONLY need to do 1. Full rubric is available on Canvas.



NOTE: I do not round up or add points at the end of the semester, so please do not ask. However, I do provide two extra credit opportunities (one at the beginning and one at the end). I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities! These opportunities are offered fairly to everyone, unlike arbitrarily asking me to award extra points on an individual basis at the end of the semester.

Percentage	Letter Grade
93% and up	A
90 - 92%	A-
87 - 89%	B+
83 - 86%	B
80 - 82%	B-
77 - 79%	C+
73 - 76%	C
70 - 72%	C-
67 - 69%	D+
63 - 66%	D
60 - 62%	D-
59% and Below	E

Grading

Attendance

While attendance is not “graded”, it is HIGHLY recommended you attend class on a regular basis. Attendance (and participation) is critical because the discussion and sharing of ideas and concepts is pivotal to engaging in critical thinking about the ideas in this course. Be prepared to come to class able to participate in class discussions. Please read/listen/watch the materials noted for each topic before the class on that topic.

Make-Up/Late Work

All work is the student’s responsibility. I understand that sometimes life just happens, and this can interfere with meeting deadlines. If you have a legitimate reason for missing a class or assignment (e.g., documented illness) and can provide documentation, I will accept late work without a grade deduction IF you contact me immediately before/after the missed assignment. You are responsible for getting any notes from a fellow classmate should you need to miss class.

I will accept late work - no questions asked - within 48 hours, but will have a grade deduction. Rubrics will have the grade deduction for each assignment.

The important takeaway here is: please just communicate with me, I want you to succeed in my class. :)

Disputing Grades

All grades are posted on Canvas throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to review your grades regularly. Should you have a grading question, please reach out to me. If you want to dispute your grade, you have ONE WEEK after the grade is posted on Canvas. Your petition should be based on justifiable criteria. After that time period, the grade stands. I reserve the right to re-grade your entire assignment, in the situation you raise serious questions about how something was graded. This means your grade may go up or down. I do my best to provide extensive feedback when I am grading, but I am always open to engaging in respectful discussions on your grades.

You may ask questions at any time about class material, and I encourage you to come to office hours to discuss these questions.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important to share your accommodation letter with me and discuss your needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty Policy

As a UF student, you are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The [Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions - this includes the use of AI technology to complete an assignment and submit as your own work.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available [here](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluation through the email they receive from GatorEvals or in the Canvas course menu under GatorEvals.

Disclaimer

I reserve the right to alter the course syllabus as circumstances dictate (flow of class, natural disasters, illness, etc.). Any changes and announcements will be posted on Canvas ASAP, as well as announced in class. Students not attending class are responsible for obtaining this information. Please check your Canvas regularly.

Part of learning about the relationship between law and society involves examining some sensitive topics, such as racial disparities, gender discrimination, and victimization. While I do my best to provide a positive and encouraging learning atmosphere, I know that sometimes these topics can be difficult, and I encourage you to seek out campus resources for support. UF provides several different types of resources.

● Health And Wellness

- ✓ *U Matter, We Care:*
umatter@ufl.edu
or call (352) 392-1575
- ✓ *Counseling and Wellness Center*
(352) 392 - 1575
- ✓ *Student Health Care Center*
(352) 392-1161
- ✓ *University Police Department*
(352) 392 - 1111
(or 911 for emergencies)
- ✓ *UF Health Shands*
(352) 733-0111
(or go to the emergency room)

● Academic Resources

- ✓ *E-Learning Technical Support*
(352) 292-4357
helpdesk@ufl.edu
- ✓ *Career Connections Center*
Reitz Union Suite 1300
(352) 392-1601
- ✓ *Library Support*
- ✓ *Teaching Center*
Broward Hall
- ✓ *Writing Studio*
2215 Turlington Hall
(352) 846-1138

Course Schedule

The following schedule provides that topics we will cover each week, along with the assignment due dates. Please note that there are two extra credit assignments there as well. All reading access will be provided on Canvas - be sure to follow Canvas for all materials and all assignment details/rubrics.

Date	Topic	Assignments Due *all deadlines are 11:59 pm
8/23	Syllabus Day	
8/26 - 8/30	What is Law? Critical Thinking & The Law	8/30 - Weekly Reflection 1 8/30 - Extra Credit 1
9/2 - 9/6	*9/2 - No Class Evolution of Law & Legal Systems	9/6 - Weekly Reflection 2 9/8 - Application Assignment 1
9/9 - 9/13	Before the Law	9/13 - Weekly Reflection 3
9/16 - 9/20	Crime Control v. Due Process	9/20 - Weekly Reflection 4 9/22 - Movie Reflection Option 1
9/23 - 9/27	Resolving Conflict	9/27 - Weekly Reflection 5
9/30 - 10/4	Defining Discretion & Equality	10/4 - Weekly Reflection 6
10/7 - 10/11	Discretion & Equality: Police & Prosecutors	10/11 - Weekly Reflection 7
10/14 - 10/18	Discretion & Equality: Judges & Juries *10/18 - No Class	10/18 - Weekly Reflection 8 10/20 - Application Assignment 2

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments Due *all deadlines are 11:59 pm
10/21 - 10/25	Functionalism, Marxist Theory	10/25 - Weekly Reflection 9
10/28 - 11/1	Critical Approaches	11/1 - Weekly Reflection 10 11/3 - Application Assignment 3
11/4 - 11/8	Wrongful Convictions	11/8 Weekly Reflection 11 11/8 - Movie Reflection Option 2
11/11 - 11/15	*11/11 - No Class Science Based Decision Making	11/15 - Weekly Reflection 12
11/18 - 11/22	Technology, Law & Society	11/22 - Weekly Reflection 13 11/24 - Application Assignment 4
11/25 - 11/29	*No Class	
12/2 - 12/4	Law & Society Moving Forward	12/2 - Movie Reflection Option 3 12/6 - Inforgraphic 12/6 - Extra Credit 2