

Law and Society

Summer 2021 | CJL3038 | Online | University of Florida, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the scholarly study of law from a multidisciplinary, liberal arts 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. Note: This is not a course in the content of the law. Instead, it is a course designed to help you critically evaluate the interaction between the law and the society in which it operates.



Professor:
Dr. Lora Levett
Pronouns: she/her/hers



Email: llevett@ufl.edu
Use CJL3038 in the subject line



Zoom office hours: Click on 'zoom conferences' on your lefthand menu in canvas
Mondays 9:30am – 11:30am and by appointment

Email is the easiest and most effective way to reach me.

However, if I don't answer your email within 48 hours, please re-email me.



Teaching Assistant
Tian Zhi - Jackie
Pronouns: she/her/hers

Email: tzhi@ufl.edu

Zoom office hours: Click on 'zoom conferences' on your lefthand menu in canvas
Wednesdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm and by appointment



Teaching Assistant
Shelby Mikkelson
Pronouns: she/her/hers

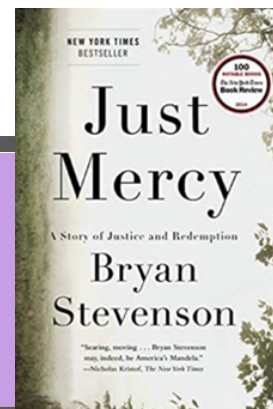
Email: s.mikkelson@ufl.edu

Zoom office hours: Click on 'zoom conferences' on your lefthand menu in canvas
Fridays 12:00pm – 2:00pm and by appointment

READINGS

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson (get a digital copy at UF library!)

Other readings as assigned and available through the library or posted on our Canvas Website



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

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

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

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you should be able to demonstrate an understanding and ability to think critically about legal ideas, institutions, processes, and practices using an interdisciplinary approach to law and society. To that end, students should be able to:

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

✓ Debate basic choices one must consider in studying or creating law. Explain how various ways of knowing and values 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 in light of the theoretical perspectives and tough choices one considers in creating and discussing law.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS



Quizzes

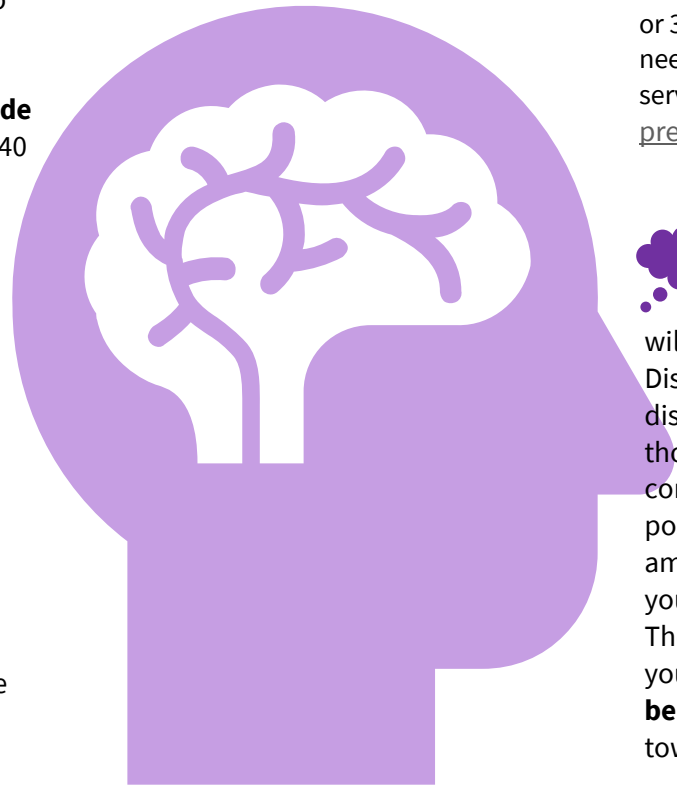
Four non-cumulative, closed note/book quizzes will be administered. The quizzes consist of 40 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each. The quizzes will cover all topics discussed up to the date of the exam including assigned readings, lectures, and discussions. The final quiz is non-cumulative; it is a fourth exam. **Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped**, so quizzes will count for a total of 240 points toward your final grade.



Honorlock Exam Proctoring

Quizzes will be proctored by honorlock. Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your quiz from the comfort of your home. You DO NOT need to create an account, download software, or schedule an appointment in advance. All that is needed is a computer, a working webcam, and a stable Internet connection.

To get started, you will need Google Chrome and to download the Honorlock Chrome Extension. You can download the extension at www.honorlock.com/extension/install. When you are ready to test, log into Canvas, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking 'launch proctoring' will begin the Honorlock authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself, show your ID, and complete a scan of your room. Honorlock will be recording your quiz session by webcam as well as recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not attempt to search for answers, even if it is on a secondary device.



Good luck! Honorlock support is available for you during your quiz. If you encounter any issues, you may contact them by live chat, phone (844-243-2500) and/or email (support@honorlock.com). If you encounter issues within Canvas, you may contact the UF Help Desk at helpdesk@ufl.edu or 352-392-4357. If you experience technical problems, you'll need to email Dr. Levett with your ticket number from those services. Last, please click here for a page from UF to prepare for the exam.



Class Discussions

Discussion is pivotal to engaging in critical thinking about the ideas in this course. Therefore, we will engage discussion in every unit and topic of this course. Discussions are graded according to the rubric for each discussion. Generally, to earn full points, you must make a thoughtful contribution to the class discussion, post your contributions on time, and follow all the instructions for posting. Each discussion is worth a total of 5 points, divided among the parts of the discussion. If you miss a discussion, you can make it up according to our class makeup policy. There are 21 discussions, and 16 of them will count toward your final grade, **so your lowest 5 discussion grades will be dropped**. Therefore, discussions are worth 80 points toward your final grade.



Just Mercy Assignment: Paper

You are responsible for writing a response paper after reading the book Just Mercy. Details about the response paper (including the grading rubric) is available in the Canvas site. Your paper is worth 80 points toward your final grade.

Grades are determined according to a **point structure** based on your work on a combination of exams and assignments. I encourage you to use this chart to keep track of your points earned this semester:

GRADING

Final grades will be determined according to the following structure. GPA assignments are also noted below. For more information about UF grades and grading policies, see www.catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/

Component of your grade	Points you can earn	Points you earned
Three Highest Quiz Scores	80	_____
	80	_____
	80	_____
Class Activities/Discussions	80	_____
Just Mercy Paper	80	_____
TOTAL POINTS	400	_____

Points Earned	Grade	Corresponding Grade Points
370-400	A	4.00
358-369	A-	3.67
346-357	B+	3.33
330-345	B	3.00
318-329	B-	2.67
306-317	C+	2.33
290-305	C	2.00
278-289	C-	1.67
266-277	D+	1.33
250-265	D	1.00
238-249	D-	.67
237 and below	E	0.00

Note: I do not round up or add points at the end of the semester, so please do not ask. However, you will be given a 5-point extra credit opportunity this semester. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity! It is provided so that if your grade is considered 'borderline' or within a few points of the next highest grade, you will have the opportunity to boost your grade. It is offered fairly to everyone, unlike arbitrarily asking the professor to award extra points on an individual basis at the end of the semester.

COURSE POLICIES

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Technical Help

For technical issues with the course, contact the UF Help Desk at helpdesk@ufl.edu or 352-392-4357. Honorlock support is available for you during your exam, support@honorlock.com or 844-243-2500. If you encounter technical issues, contact me to resolve the issue, and include your help desk ticket number.

Campus Resources

Part of examining the relationship between law and society involves examining sensitive topics, such as racial disparities, gender discrimination, and victimization. This may be emotionally difficult at times, and I encourage you to seek out campus resources for support. UF provides several different types of resources:

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/> 352-392-1575

Student Health Care Center: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/> 352-392-1161

UF Police Department Office of Victim Services: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/victim-services/>

Dean of Students Office – emergency response team:
https://www.dso.ufl.edu/home/about/emergency_response

U Matter, We Care can also help students, staff, or faculty in distress. You can reach them via email at umatter@ufl.edu or phone 352-392-1575. If you find yourself concerned about a fellow student, you can notify U Matter, We Care, and they will reach out to the student.

Administrative Information

This syllabus is provided for your information and may change as deemed necessary. You are responsible for learning all the material contained in the syllabus as well as any modifications that are made to the syllabus during class time. All changes to the syllabus will be announced and emailed to you. If you have any questions about the syllabus or course requirements, please feel free to contact me. A proposed semester schedule appears below, and any changes will be updated on canvas and announced in class.

Makeup Policies

I understand that sometimes one's life sometimes interferes with one's ability to complete class requirements. If you have a legitimate reason for missing a class assignment (e.g., illness, death in the family) and **can provide documentation**, you will be allowed to make up what you missed IF you contact me immediately before/after the missed assignment. If you miss a class discussion, you may be given an alternative assignment depending on the feasibility of completing the assignment given the timing of your absence. Religious holidays are excused without documentation but must be discussed in advance.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Misconduct

UF Students 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 (sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or the TA in the class.

For this course, **all work is to be completed individually** unless otherwise specified.

Classroom Behavior

Students are expected to behave appropriately and professionally in the online class environment. This class is meant to be an enriching, enjoyable experience for all of you. Disrupting the class or behaving inappropriately in our online environment results in depriving your fellow classmates and yourself of this experience. The instructor is the final arbiter of what behavior is appropriate and inappropriate. However, you may use the following principle to guide your classroom behavior: Your behavior should not be disruptive to the instructor or your classmates. This principle will help you determine appropriate classroom behaviors.

For office hours:

- ✓ Be prepared! Come with an agenda and questions that you would like to ask.
- ✓ **Use your camera** if your bandwidth and webcam allow it.
- ✓ Use a **virtual background** or **bitmoji** for your image on zoom that reflects your personality if you'd like (but make sure it's appropriate!)
- ✓ Wear clothes!

Succeeding in an online course:

- ✓ Schedule "class times" for yourself. It is important to do the coursework on time each week. You will receive 0 points for work that is turned in late!
- ✓ **Check your email and the course announcements regularly.**
- ✓ **Actively watch lectures** – You're not watching TV! Take notes as if you were sitting in a live class. Post questions about the material on the discussion board.
- ✓ If you run into trouble or need help in the course, do not wait to ask for it! We are here to help.
- ✓ Back up your work – since we're primarily working in a virtual environment, it becomes even more important to keep backups.
- ✓ **Be attentive in your work.** Each assignment is carefully laid out for you – make sure to answer **EVERY** part of the question.
- ✓ Enjoy the journey. Remember – part of the goal of the course is critical thinking. Enjoy thinking of possibilities and grappling with these difficult concepts.

Civility and Values

As members of this class and university, we are members of a larger learning community where excellence is achieved through civility. Our actions affect everyone in our community. Everyone is to be treated with respect, regardless of gender, age, race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, or other identity.

Communication

When in doubt, communicate with us! We are here to help you navigate this course and this semester. There are several ways you can communicate with us:

Discussion Board: You can post content or class related questions on the discussion board in our Canvas Course Shell. Be sure to look at previous posts to see if your question has been asked/answered. Dr. Levett and your TA will check this board regularly and weigh in. However, often, your fellow students will be your best – and fastest – resource. Think of this discussion board as a place to ask things that you would typically ask by raising your hand in class.

Email: The fastest way to reach your instructor and your TA is through email. Please **use your UF email** and include C JL3038 in the subject line. **If you do not hear back within 48 hours, please pop your email to the top of our inbox by forwarding it.** We get a TON of email, and don't want to lose yours in the shuffle! Email should be used whenever questions are of a private manner or something you would not generally raise your hand about during class.

Zoom office hours: Please pop by to say hi during office hours! We are here to meet with you and help you with course material, answer questions about the major, chat about careers – we are here to be a resource for you! If office hours don't work for your schedule, we are also available to zoom by appointment.

Academic Resources

Academic resources may be helpful in navigating issues you may encounter in this class or at your time at UF. I cannot tell you how many students I have referred to the Teaching Center for Study Skills help or the Writing Studio for assistance in writing and have really benefitted from the services (that are already included in your student fees!). I encourage you to take advantage of these resources.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

www.career.ufl.edu/

Library support: www.cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask/ various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

www.writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Student Complaints (on-campus): www.sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/

Student Complaints (on-line): <https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/student-complaint-process/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

The material for each unit is available starting at the beginning of the semester. I encourage you to review the overall structure of the course at the beginning of the course. Summer is **INCREDIBLY fast-paced** – we have 6 weeks to cover material that we usually cover over the course of 16 weeks in the Fall or Spring Semesters.

The course is divided into 4 units, and each unit consists of 3 general topics. For each topic, you'll have readings to complete, lectures to watch, and discussions to complete. Make sure to check the detailed 'to do' lists associated with each unit and topic. Discussions, your Just Mercy paper, and quizzes are due according to the schedule below. Remember, your lowest quiz grade and your lowest 5 discussion grades are dropped. Therefore, should you choose not to complete up to five discussions or a single quiz, those grades will be dropped as zeros.

Unit/Topic	Dates	Topics	Materials for this Week (posted on Canvas)	Due
Introduction	May 10-11	Introduction to Course	Reading: Calavita, 2016	May 12: Syllabus Quiz May 12: Discussion 1
Unit 1, Topic 1	May 11-12	What is Law?	Website: Rule of Law and Why it Matters Website: World Justice Project Video: What is the Rule of Law? Video: TED talk on Canvas Reading: Tommasoli, 2012	May 13: Discussion 2 May 13: Discussion 3
Unit 1, Topic 2	May 13/16	Critical Thinking and the Law	Reading: Ellerton, 2017	May 16: Discussion 4 May 16: Discussion 5
Unit 1, Topic 3	May 17-18	Evolution of Law and Legal Systems	Reading: Marks, 1975 Reading: Llewellyn & Hoebel, 1941	May 19: Discussion 6 May 19: Discussion 7
UNIT ONE QUIZ	May 19	UNIT ONE QUIZ		THURSDAY MAY 19: QUIZ ONE
Unit 2, Topic 1	May 20/23	Before the Law	Reading: Before the Law (Kafka) Reading: Bracket, 1995 Reading: Fleming, 1978 Reading: The Problem of Our Laws (Kafka) Reading: Couriers (Kafka)	May 24: Discussion 8

Unit 2, Topic 2	May 24-25	Theoretical Perspectives in Law and Society: Functionalism, Marxist Theory	Reading: Lenin, 1919 Reading: Stamp, 1956 Reading: Thornton & wife v. The Suffolk Manufacturing Company, 1852 Reading: The New Free Trade Heel, Ballinger, 1992	May 26: Discussion 9
Unit 2, Topic 3	May 26-27	Theoretical Perspectives in Law and Society: Critical Approaches	Podcast: The Fight to Make Sexual Harassment a Crime Reading: EEOC v. Sears Roebuck Co., 1986 Website: Harris v. Forklift Systems, Inc., 1993	May 31: Discussion 10
UNIT TWO QUIZ	May 31-June 1	UNIT TWO QUIZ		TUESDAY MAY 31 or WEDNESDAY JUNE 1
Unit 3, Topic 1	June 1-2	Theoretical Perspectives in Law and Society: Critical Approaches, Intersectional Approaches	Podcast: The Color of Law Video: TED talk on Canvas Reading: Crenshaw, 1989	June 3: Discussion 11 June 3: Discussion 12 June 3: Discussion 13
Unit 3, Topic 2	June 3/6	Film Analysis	Movie of your choice – analyze for the discussion using class material!	June 7: Discussion 14
Unit 3, Topic 3	June 7-8	Tough Choices in Law and Society: Crime Control and Due Process	Reading: Kaylor, 2013 Reading: Frank 1950 Reading: Curtis, 1951 Reading: Mills 1971 Podcast: The Buried Bodies Case	June 8: Discussion 15 June 8: Discussion 16 June 8: Discussion 17
UNIT THREE QUIZ	June 9	UNIT THREE QUIZ		THURSDAY JUNE 9: QUIZ THREE
Unit 4, Topic 1	June 10/13	Tough Choices in Law and Society: Discretion, Police, and Prosecutors	Reading: Klein, 2016 Activity: IAT Sommers & Marotta (2014)	June 13: Discussion 18 June 13: Discussion 19

JUST MERCY PAPER DUE	June 13	Just Mercy Paper Due		MONDAY JUNE 13: JUST MERCY PAPER DUE
Unit 4, Topic 2	June 13-14	Tough Choices in Law and Society: Discretion, Judges, and Juries	Readings: Maier and Berry articles Reading: Excerpt from Democracy in America	June 15: Discussion 20
Unit 4, Topic 3	June 15-16	Wrongful Conviction and Science-Based Policy Solutions	Expert Videos Infographic: National Registry of Exonerations on Race and Wrongful Conviction Reading: Summers, 1999	June 17: Discussion 21
UNIT FOUR QUIZ	June 17	UNIT FOUR QUIZ		FRIDAY JUNE 17: QUIZ 4

A MESSAGE FOR STUDENTS:

Finally, I have a message for you all, taken from the National Commission on Excellence in Education (1997):
 “To Students:

You forfeit your chance for life at its fullest when you withhold your best effort in learning. When you give only the minimum in learning, you receive only the minimum in return. Even with your parents’ best example and your teachers’ best efforts, in the end it is your work that determines how much and how well you learn. When you work to your full capacity, you can hope to attain the knowledge and skills that will enable you to create your future and control your destiny. If you do not, you will have your future thrust upon you by others. Take hold your life, apply your gifts and talents, and work with dedication and self-discipline. Have high expectations for yourself, and convert every challenge into an opportunity.”

It is my hope that you will take this course and your years in college as a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand your mind, enjoy yourself and your capacity to learn, and absorb as much knowledge as you can. Remember, you may never be here again. Get ready for a GREAT semester, and as always, **press on!**

-Dr. L