

# CJL 3038 Law & Society

Spring 2023

Tuesdays 8:30 – 10:25 Thursdays 9:35 – 10:25 | Architecture 0213

## 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.



### Instructor:

Shelby Mikkelson  
Pronouns:  
she/her/hers

### Email:

[s.mikkelson@ufl.edu](mailto:s.mikkelson@ufl.edu)  
Please include "CJL 3038"  
in the subject line.

### Office Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays  
2:00 – 3:00pm in  
Turlington 3347.

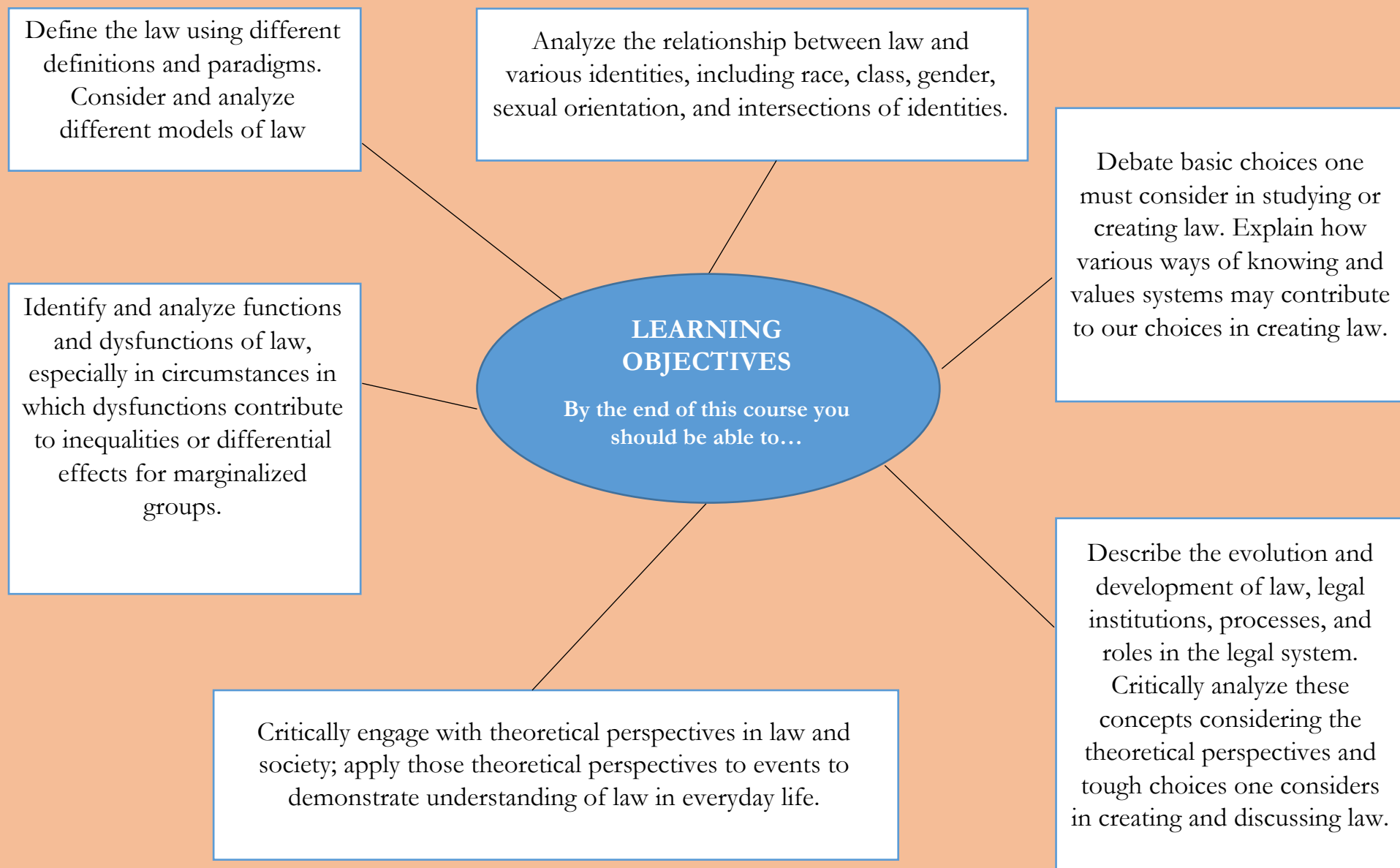
Email is the easiest and most effective way to reach me.  
However, if I don't answer your email within 48 hours, please re-email me.

## Course Materials

Required textbook: Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander

Other required readings will be provided on Canvas.





## Assessments

### Attendance & Participation

Regular attendance is required and part of your grade is participation in class. Attendance and participation are critical because the discussion and sharing of ideas and concepts is pivotal to engaging in critical thinking about the ideas in this course. Your participation will be determined by attendance taken throughout the semester in the form of in-class activities, short writing assignments, group work, discussions, and one individual final paper meeting. Lack of attendance and participation cannot be made up at a later date unless you have a documentable reason for missing class. Vacations, work, and travel are not considered legitimate reasons for missing class or assignments. However, you get one “freebie” that will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Be prepared to come to class able to participate in discussions. Please read/listen/watch the materials noted for each topic before the class on that topic. As such, to earn full credit for class participation, you must read the cases and chapters that you are assigned and be prepared to answer questions pertaining to the materials.

### Quizzes

There will be five cumulative, open note/book quizzes. All quizzes will be taken online. The quizzes consist of 3 short answer questions. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Further information on quiz structure will be discussed in class.

### Thought Papers

There are five required thought/response papers due in this course. Thought papers will be expected to encourage you to engage with the material for that particular thought paper, discuss what you learned and what you still have questions about. Papers must be submitted on Canvas, or they will not be accepted. The rubric is available on Canvas.

### Final Paper Outline

For the final assignment, you will write a critical analysis paper based on the Just Mercy, The New Jim Crow and a Law & Society theory. An outline of your paper will also be required to be turned in the following class meeting. The outline should be detailed enough to show you are preparing to write your final paper. The rubric is available on Canvas.

### Final Paper

For the final assignment, you will write a critical analysis paper based on the Just Mercy, the New Jim Crow, and a Law & Society theory. We will have an in-class discussion about Just Mercy (see schedule) be sure to have finished the book by then. We will discuss chapters of The New Jim Crow throughout the course. It is expected that you READ both books in their entirety. Your outline with feedback will be returned the week after it was due. Use this to write your final paper. The rubric is available on Canvas.



## Grading

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

Assessment		Points You Can Earn	Points You Earned
Attendance & Participation		80	
Quizzes – lowest score is dropped	1	50	
	2	50	
	3	50	
	4	50	
	5		
Thought Papers	One	30	
	Two	30	
	Three	30	
	Four	30	
	Five	30	
Final Paper Outline		20	
Final Paper		100	
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>550</b>	

**Final letter grades will be assigned based on the following point ranges:**

Points Earned	Corresponding Percentage	Letter Grade
512 – 550	93% and up	A
495 - 511	90 – 92%	A-
479 – 494	87 – 89%	B+
457 – 478	83 – 86%	B
440 – 456	80 – 82%	B-
424 – 439	77 – 79%	C+
402 – 423	73 – 76%	C
385 – 401	70 – 72%	C-
369 – 384	67 – 69%	D+
347 – 368	63 – 66%	D
330 – 346	60 – 62%	D-
329 and below	59% and below	E

**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 extra credit opportunities this semester. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities! They are 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. Extra credit opportunities are offered fairly to everyone, unlike arbitrarily asking the instructor to award extra points on an individual basis at the end of the semester. You can find more information on UF grading policies [here](#).



## Course Policies

### 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 have questions about your grade on a quiz, paper, etc. you have **one week** after the grade is posted on Canvas in which to inquire about your grade (that is, to ask for point changes based on justifiable criteria – except for the last week, because grades are due within a few days). After that time period, the grade stands. However, you can ask questions about class material at any point to increase your understanding of what you did wrong. If you want to question your grades before the final grades are submitted, you need to do so no later than Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Should you raise serious questions about how something was graded, I reserve the right to re-grade your entire assignment (meaning your grade may go up or down).

### Make-up Work

All make-up work is the student's responsibility. If you know you may miss a class, inform the instructor as soon as possible. I understand that sometimes one's personal life interferes with the ability to take a quiz, turn in a paper, attend class, etc. If you have a legitimate reason for missing a class or assignment (e.g., documented illness), and **can provide documentation**, you will be allowed to make up what you missed without a grade deduction IF you contact me immediately before/after the missed assignment. Religious holidays are excused without documentation but must be discussed with the instructor in advance. You are responsible for getting any notes and/or assignments from your fellow classmates should you need to miss class. As students, you must take responsibility for learning the material covered in class. In class work cannot be made up for any reason.

Late assignments will be accepted within 48 hours of the due date and will have the grade lowered as a penalty. For each day the assignment is late, your grade will be reduced according to the assignment's rubric. Any work submitted after 48 hours will not be accepted unless you have a documentable reason for the late submission. If you submit a late assignment after an approved extension date, the same policy will be used.

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **MUST** e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

### Learning Environment and Preferred Name

It is important to the learning environment that you feel welcome and safe in this class; and that you are comfortable participating in class discussions and communicating with me on any issues related to the class. If your preferred name is not the name listed on the official UF roll, please let me know as soon as possible by e-mail or otherwise. I would like to acknowledge your preferred name, and pronouns that reflect your identity. Please let me know how you would like to be addressed in class, if your name and pronouns are not reflected by your UF-rostered name.



## Course Policies (continued)

### Academic Honesty Policy

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](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

### Plagiarism

A part of academic learning is learning how to critically engage in material, use material to support our arguments, and to properly give credit where credit is due. I take plagiarism **EXTREMELY** seriously, meaning I will not tolerate it. If I suspect or TurnItIn flags your assignment for plagiarism, I will immediately report to the Student Conduct office. You will receive a zero on that assignment, if necessary, I will only change that grade once a meeting has been held between you and the student conduct office. If the assignment is your final paper, I will submit your final grade with your final paper as a zero. Again, I will make any necessary changes should the student conduct meeting deem otherwise. To avoid this, conduct your own work, and give credit where it is due.

### 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 for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### 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: <https://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/>.



## Campus Resources

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

Due to the nature of the course and the sensitive topics, I will NOT tolerate disrespect or bullying in the classroom. If either of these behaviors occur, you will be asked to leave. If it occurs several times over the semester, I will involve the appropriate individuals to handle the matter.

### Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *University Police Department*: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

### Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).
- *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- *Library Support*: 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.
- *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.
- *On-Line Students Complaints*: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.



## Course Schedule

### Disclaimer

I reserve the right to alter the course syllabus as circumstances dictate. 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. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas. Students not attending class are responsible for obtaining this information.

Module	Date	Topic	Materials	Assignments Due *all deadlines are 11:59 PM
1	1/10	Intro to Course	Syllabus	Participation 1
	1/12	What is Law?	Calavita, 2016 Friedrichs, 2018 *Chapter 5 Tommasoli, 2012 Videos: What is the Rule of Law? Kimberly Motley TED Talk	
2	1/17	Critical Thinking & the Law	Ellerton, 2017 Alexander, 2020 *Preface, Introduction	
	1/19	*No Class		Participation Submission
3	1/24	Science – Based Decision Making	<i>Roper v. Simmons</i> , 2005 <i>Lockhart v. McCree</i> , 1986 APA Amicus Briefs	Thought Paper 1
	1/26			Sunday Jan.29 : Quiz One
4	1/31	Functionalism, Marxist Theory	Lenin, 1919 Stampp, 1956 <i>Thornton v. The Suffolk Manufacturing Company</i> , 1852	



			Alexander, 2020 *Chapter 1	
	2/2			
5	2/7	Feminist Legal Theory	Painter, 2015 Rothenberg, 1996 Laura Dunn TED Talk	
	2/9			
6	2/14	Critical Approaches	Kimberle Crenshaw TED Talk Gotanda, 1991 Color of the Law Podcast Alexander, 2020 *Chapter 3	Thought Paper 2
	2/16			Sunday Feb. 19: Quiz Two
7	2/21	Evolution of the Law & Legal Systems	Marks, 1975 Llewellyn & Hoebel, 1941	
	2/23			
8	2/28	Before the Law	Kafka, 1998 (1925) Poiltzer, 1962 (Kafka's The Problem of Our Laws) Supreme Court Docket	
	3/2			
9	3/7	Crime Control v. Due Process	Kaylor, 2013	
	3/9			
	3/14	*No Class – Spring Break		
	3/16			
10	3/21	Resolving Conflict	Frank, 1950 Curtis, 1951 Buried Bodies Podcast	Thought Paper 3
	3/23			Sunday March 26: Quiz Three
11	3/28	Final Paper Discussion	Just Mercy Michelle Alexander TED Talk Bryan Stevenson TED Talk	

	3/30	Defining Discretion & Equality	Sommers & Marotta, 2014 Klein, 2016	Final Paper Outline
12	4/4	Discretion & Equality: Police & Prosecutors	Alexander, 2020 *Chapter 2 <i>Terry v. Ohio</i> , 1968 Butler, 2009 *Chapter 6	
	4/6			Outlines with Feedback will be returned by 11:59pm
13	4/11	Discretion & Equality: Judges & Juries	Maier Berry De Toqueville, 1831 Gilna, 2018	Thought Paper 4
	4/13			Sunday April 16: Quiz Four
14	4/18	*No Class	Individual Meetings to discuss final paper The 13 <sup>th</sup> Documentary	
	4/20	After Incarceration	Alexander, 2020 *Chapter 4 & 5 Prisoner Re-Entry John Oliver video	13 <sup>th</sup> Participation Submission
15	4/25	Wrongful Convictions	National Registry, Race & Wrongful Conviction Garrett, 2017 Ronald Sullivan TED Talk	Thought Paper 5  *Final Paper due: Wed. April 26
	4/27	No Class – Reading Day		
	5/3	Scheduled Final*		Quiz Five