Soc 345: Sociology of Rights, Justice, and Law
3 units

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This correspondence class covers multiple aspects of law, rights, and justice from a sociological standpoint. We begin with readings about the role that law plays in American society. Then we move into Marx, Weber, and Durkheim’s understandings of the law and how these sociological forefathers continue to influence our understanding of law today. We briefly touch on the role of storytelling in law before moving on to look at how the law serves as a form of social control, how the law produces and reproduces inequalities in American society, and finally the potential for legal social change.

Grade Evaluation
Memos 70%  
Research Proposal 30%

Grade Scale
A  90-100%
B  80-89%
C 70-79%
D 60-69%
E 0-59%

Memos
Write a four paragraph memo on each of the 22 readings. Each paragraph should be at least 100 words long, and thus each memo should be a minimum of 400 words long. The first paragraph should summarize the author’s main point(s). The second paragraph should highlight several ideas and facts that stood out to the student and explain why they found they stood out (explain why they were surprising, frustrating, inspiring, etc). The third paragraph should apply ideas and facts from the reading to issues, events, or information that the student already knows. In the fourth paragraph, the student should question and/or critique at least one of the reading’s findings or arguments. Every memo should demonstrate the student’s comprehension of the material, as well as their critical engagement with the reading.

Research Proposal
After completing the readings, you will likely have some lingering questions about rights, justice, and the law. Choose one of these questions and write a focused research proposal that includes a research question, summary of the literature that cites at least 5 of the course readings and 5 other sources, a description of what kind of data you will collect and how you will analyze it, and the implications of your expected findings. Your research proposal should be 2,000 to 2,500 words long, include a title and a works cited, and should be in ASA, APA, MLA, or Chicago format. Please see the Research Proposal handout for more detailed instructions.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to observe the University’s Code of Academic Integrity. The Code can be found at: http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity. The work you turn in must be your own. All cases of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism
will result in disciplinary action. In cases of academic dishonesty, the consequences will be worse than if you simply hadn’t submitted the assignment.

**All of the readings are available on the Correspondence Course Website.**

**Overview of the Role of Law in Society**


**Classical Approaches and their Current Significance**


**Storytelling**


**Law as Social Control**


**Law and Inequality**


Law and Social Change