

# **RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**

FALL, 2017

LAW AND SOCIETY

SOCIOLOGY 920 349 02

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS 5:00 P.M. to 6:20 P.M.

TIL252 - LIVINGSTON CAMPUS

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On campus: Davison Hall, 26 Nichol Avenue (Douglas Campus) Room 138 or  
before or after class (Livingston Student Center)

**DESCRIPTION:** The course will explore the social forces that affect law and conversely how laws affect society. The course will cover the ongoing global changes in legal systems with a concentration on the American legal system. The internet and other technological advances have created great changes in our society. The American legal system is also undergoing a revolutionary transition from an adversarial model to a model based on alternative forms of dispute resolution. How have social forces expedited this transition? The course will also examine theories and current research as to the law and social control; the law and social change; and the relationship among the participants in the legal system. In addition, the course will explore the dynamics, functions and dysfunctions of the law and how various social groups are affected by these dynamics and its effect upon our society.

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## **REQUIRED TEXT:**

- a. Law and Society an Introduction (First Edition) by Steven E. Barkan; Pearson Education, Inc.
- b. Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In by Fisher, Ury & Patton.

**COURSE STANDARDS:** Students will be expected to be on time for classes. Classes will commence and end at the established time. Students who are late or absent should make their own arrangements for any lecture materials, notes, etc. missed.

**MAKEUP POLICY:** It is expected that students will be present for all scheduled tests. Make-up tests will only be given for extenuating circumstances provided prior timely notification has been made.

**ADVISING POLICY:** Any student who needs to speak to me in private can do so either after class or by appointment. I am available to meet with students and to discuss any problem or concern. Office hours are by appointment in Room 138, Davison Hall (Douglass Campus) or before or after class.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Each student will be expected to attend all class meetings. Excessive absences will affect your grade. Exceptions to the policy will be considered for extenuating circumstances and provided prior approval has been received from the instructor.

**STATEMENT OF PLAGIARISM:** Students should refer to the student handbook and review university policy as to plagiarism. This policy states that there is to be no cheating on any tests or copying of materials on written assignments. Written assignments must be properly annotated for full credit. Acts of plagiarism will subject the student to dismissal from the course and a failing grade.

**STATEMENT ABOUT CIVILITY:** Students are expected to be on time and present for each class meeting. Students are expected to act in a respectful and civil manner to all members of the class and not disrupt any classroom activities, discussions or lectures. Cell phones are not to be used in the classroom including no texting. Any repeat violations of these policies may include dismissal from that immediate class. Any continuing disruptions to the classroom will subject the student to dismissal from the course.

**DISABILITIES STATEMENT:** If there is any student in the class who has special needs because of learning disabilities or other kinds of disabilities, please feel free to come and discuss this with me.

**DISCLAIMER:** The schedule and procedures described in this course outline are subject to change depending upon the needs of the class.

**SAKAI:** Syllabus will be posted on SAKAI as well as material and topics for discussion for each individual class. Students should check SAKAI for the material and current topic and be prepared to discuss the topic in class and on SAKAI. Chat Room will also be available on SAKAI.

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** Recommendation letters will only be provided to students who have received an “A” for the course and have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

3 Tests (30% Each) 90%

Class Attendance/Class Participation/SAKAI Discussions 10%

Grading:	90-100	A
	88-89	B+
	80-87	B
	78-79	C+
	70-77	C
	60-69	D
	< 60	F

Note: Tests are not cumulative but will cover material since the prior test.

Professor reserves the right in Professor's sole discretion to increase grade accordingly for outstanding work, attendance and/or contribution to class discussion or reduce grade for substandard work, attendance and/or contribution to class discussion.

CLASS #	DATE	TOPIC	CHAPTER	NOTES
1	09/06/17	The Social Nature and Significance of Law	1	
2	09/11/17	The Social Nature and Significance of Law	1	
3	09/13/17	Understanding Law and Society	2	
4	09/18/17	Understanding Law and Society	2	
5	09/20/17	Understanding Law and Society	2	
6	09/25/17	Families and Types of Law	3	
7	09/27/17	The Legal Profession	8	
8	10/02/17	The Legal Profession	8	
9	10/04/17	Test # 1	1, 2, 3, 8	
10	10/09/17	Law and Inequality	7	
11	10/11/17	Courts and Juries & Inequality	7	
12	10/16/17	Courts and Juries	9	
13	10/18/17	Courts and Juries	9	
14	10/23/17	Courts and Juries	9	
15	10/25/17	Courts and Juries	9	
16	10/30/17	Test #2	7, 9	
17	11/01/17	Law and Dispute Processing	4	Read "Getting to Yes"
18	11/06/17	Law and Dispute Processing	4	
19	11/08/17	Law and Dispute Processing	4	
20	11/13/17	Law and Dispute Processing	4	
21	11/15/17	Law and Dispute Processing	4	
22	11/20/17	Law and Social Control	5	
23	11/22/17	Law and Social Control	5	
24	11/27/17	Law and Social Control	5	
25	11/29/17	Law and Social Change	6	

26	12/04/17	Law and Social Change	6
27	12/06/17	Law and Social Change	6
28	12/11/17	Review	4, 5, 6
29	TBD	Test # 3	4, 5, 6