

YORK UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

The Sociology of Law
AP/PPAS 4070 Section A
Fall/Winter 2022-2023

Course Information

Course Instructor: Nancy Sanders, PhD
E-mail: nsanders@yorku.ca
Office Hours: Before/After Class or Tues
12-1pm; appointments by email request

Course Time & Days: Monday 11:30-
14:30
Class Location: VH2000

Land Acknowledgment

York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region

Course Overview

Course Description

This course examines social institutions and ideologies of law. The foundations and practices of law are studied in reference to the influences of capitalism, liberalism, and modernity. Informed by classical and contemporary perspectives, this course examines the relationship between law and society.

This course explores the field of *Sociology of Law* including an examination of structures and processes that shape the development of law and the experience of law as a sociocultural product. Foundations of the field are studied through classical contributions including those of Max Weber, Emile Durkheim and Karl Marx as well as a

pursuit of critical theories regarding social order, cohesion, conflict, and power relations. A consideration of socio-political context will inform our understanding of law within a capitalistic society and the meaning people give to their legal reality. This course aims to further critical understanding of our experience of law as both specialists and ordinary citizens, and how this influences our social values and behavior. To this end, in addition to theoretical study, students will be engaged in discussion of current news items, case studies and the consideration of the role of media in building conceptions and/or misconceptions of crime and justice.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course:

- Students will gain an understanding of the theoretical foundations of the sociology of law and the dynamic of law in society
- Students will develop or further develop analytic skills in examining law as both a legitimate authority as well as a social process
- Students will demonstrate their ability to summarize and synthesize complex concepts and apply theoretical knowledge to case studies/examples
- Students will critically evaluate relevant, current government or agency reports on key topics in the field
- Students will evaluate the role of the media in building conceptions of law in society

Required Course Materials

Required Text:

Treviño, A. Javier. The Sociology of Law: Classical and contemporary perspectives. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. London and New York, 2008.

This text has been ordered into the YorkU bookstore.

Optional Recommended Reading: (not required but a great read!)

Calavita, Kitty. Invitation to Law and Society: An introduction to the study of real law. 2nd Edition. The University of Chicago Press. 2016

In-class seminar material will draw on texts, journal readings, government reports, videos, and supplemental materials as outlined in detail in the class schedule.

Course Format and Organization

This course is an **in-person** course, supplemented with synchronous and asynchronous elements. Our meetings will allow for the presentation of course material and the discussion of readings, case studies and news items. All students are expected to attend the class meeting times **as per the schedule** on indicated Mondays at 11:30am. Please note that any live Zoom classes that are held will be recorded and will be posted for reference on the course eclass site.

Asynchronous elements will allow students to experience additional course material including videos, activities, and discussion forums more independently within the course timeframe.

Technical Requirements

Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., eClass, Zoom, etc.) through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director/TA, as well as with one another. Students require a stable, high-speed Internet connections, a computer with a webcam and microphone, and/or a smart device with these features.

Using Zoom

Students shall note the following:

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the United States and Canada. Recordings done since May 1, 2022 are stored in Canada. For more information, please refer to the notes on [Zoom Privacy and Security](#) provided by Information Security at York.
- If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session.
- The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources, and help:

- [Student Guide to eClass](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)
- [University Information Technology \(UIT\) Student Services](#)
- [Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as [Speedtest](#), that can be run. If you need technical assistance, please consult the [University Information Technology \(UIT\) Student Services](#) web page. For more specific assistance, please write to askit@yorku.ca.

Course Communication Plan and Office Hours

Please do not hesitate to contact your professor through email at nsanders@yorku.ca. Correspondence is reviewed daily (Mon-Fri) before 9am; therefore, you will receive a response within 24-48 hours. If your inquiry is urgent, please mark "Urgent" in the subject line. Given there are three sections of this course, all student correspondence should include your course and section number: 4070 A

- Your professor will arrive early and remain after class for individual consultations. In addition, office hours are held Tuesdays 12-1pm or by request. Individual appointments should be requested through email and may be held in person, by phone or through Zoom

- Students will participate with each other in class and throughout the course and through Discussion Forums (details in the “Assignments” document)
- Important course information will be shared through eclass “Course Announcements”. Students are expected to monitor Course Announcements.

Course Evaluation

Assessment	Due Date	Weight %	Notes
Class Attendance and participation	Throughout	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance is taken in class through “sign in” procedure • Volunteer/participate in discussions
Discussion Forums	Throughout Due 12:00 noon on day prior to class	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow for engagement with other students • Must be completed in advance to allow for discussion in class
First Term culminating Essay	Nov 28 2022 at 11:30 am	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 24-48 hour “grace period” without penalty is available upon request
Group Assignment & Individual Reflection	Throughout Winter Term Individual Reflection due 24 hours prior to Presentation (due at 11:30 am)	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration and equal participation are expected • Individual reflections will be submitted 1 full day (24 hrs) prior to class date of your group presentation
Final Essay	March 20, 2023 at 11:30 am	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 24-48 hour “grace period” without

			penalty is available upon request
		100%	

Assessment Details

Details can be found in the “Assignments” document posted on e-class. Rubrics will be provided for essays; marking grids will be posted for most other assignments.

All essays are to be double spaced, font size 12, page numbered, include a title page as well as student name. Please note that as an advanced level course, expectations for scholarly writing are upheld; students are strongly advised to have all written submissions thoroughly proofread.

Submitting Assignments

Assignments for this course must be received within the timeframes specified and will be submitted through eclass (“Turnitin” or “Assignments” or through the Discussion Forum as noted in each assignment). Students are expected to save a copy of all assignments and may be asked to resubmit if any difficulties in submission arises. Note times of submission are aligned with the start of your class time (11:30).

Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time.

Late Work Policy

Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. In an effort to address unforeseen circumstances a 24-48 hour “grace period” can be requested through a direct email to your professor and confirmed through a reply from your professor. Please ensure a reply is received.

Assignments received after the due date (+ grace period if discussed with the Professor) will be penalized one half letter grade per day.

Students with accommodations should confirm any extended timelines required with the professor well in advance of the due dates.

Grading

The grading scheme for this course conforms to the 9-point system used in undergraduate programs at York University. For a full description of the York grading system, visit the York University [Academic Calendar](#).

GRADE	GRADE POINT	PERCENT RANGE	DESCRIPTION
A+	9	90-100	Exceptional
A	8	80-89	Excellent

B+	7	75-79	Very Good
B	6	70-74	Good
C+	5	65-69	Competent
C	4	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	3	55-59	Passing
D	2	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	1	40-49	Marginally Failing
F	0	0-39	Failing

Citations

Students are expected to provide appropriate citations for essays and assignments using APA format. This allows for proper credit given to the authors of the words or the ideas you present in your work. It also allows for the grader to locate your sources to validate or learn more about your ideas. Links to appropriate citation references, guidelines and resources are provided below

- [SPARK Student Papers & Academic Research Kit](#)
- [APA Style Overview, YorkU Libraries](#)
- [Drop-in Research Support, YorkU Libraries](#)
- [Writing Centre](#)

Course Policies

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

- [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)
- [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

Please also review the following course policies:

Academic Integrity

- In this course, we strive to maintain academic honesty to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing [SPARK's Academic Integrity module](#) at the beginning of the course. Breaches of academic honesty range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.).
- All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate University authorities and can be punishable according to the [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#). Students should access the new academic honesty resources/website at: <https://www.yorku.ca/unit/vpacad/academic-integrity/>

Turnitin

To promote academic integrity in this course, students will normally be required to submit their written assignments to Turnitin (via the course's eClass site) for a review of textual similarities and the detection of possible plagiarism. In so doing, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin service are described on the Turnitin.com website. York students may opt out of using Turnitin. If you wish to opt out, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Accessibility

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to achieve excellence, the University recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to perform at their best. The University encourages students with disabilities to register with [Student Accessibility Services](#) to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors through their Letter of Accommodation (LOA).

Please let your instructor know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course. Sufficient notice is needed so that reasonable steps for accommodation can be discussed. Accommodations for tests/exams normally require three (3) weeks (or 21 days) before the scheduled test/exam to arrange.

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making reasonable and appropriate [accommodations to adherents for observances of special significance](#). Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for course examinations, tests, or deadlines conflict with a date of religious significance, please contact the instructor within the first three (3) weeks of class. If the date falls within the formal examination periods, you must complete and submit a [Religious Accommodation for Examination Form](#) at least three (3) weeks before the start of the exam period.

Intellectual Property

Course materials are designed for use as part of this particular course at York University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third-party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law. Students may not publish, post on an Internet site, sell, or otherwise distribute any course materials or work without the instructor's

express permission. Course materials should only be used by students enrolled in this course.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct according to York's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#), the [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#), and/or legal consequences for copyright violations.

Student Conduct in the Learning Environment

York University is committed to fostering teaching and learning environments that are free of disruptive and/or harassing behaviour, are physically safe, and conducive to effective teaching and learning. Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy, civility, and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Individuals who fail to adhere to such standards and who violate University or public law may be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

For more information, see the policies on [Disruptive and/or Harassing Behaviour in Academic Situations](#), the [Student Conduct and Responsibilities](#), and the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#).

Netiquette for eClass and Online Learning

Students and instructors have a joint responsibility to create and maintain a welcoming and inclusive learning environment. All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). Please review and familiarize yourself with behaviours that support “netiquette” in virtual classrooms by consulting the [Guide to Netiquette](#) and [Student Guide to eLearning](#).

Student Notice of Recording for Online Teaching and Learning

Activities for this course involve recording, in partial fulfillment of the course learning outcomes. Images, audio, text/chat messaging that have been recorded may be used and/or made available by the University to students enrolled in the course and those supporting the course for the purpose of materials review, for assessment, etc. Recordings will be managed according to the University's Common Record Schedule and will be securely destroyed when no longer needed by the University. Your personal information is protected in accordance with York University's [Guidelines on Access of Information and Protection of Privacy](#) and the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#). Access to online materials, including recordings or live meetings, is subject to York University's [Senate Policy on Computing and Information Technology Facilities](#).

The University will use reasonable means to protect the security and confidentiality of the recorded information, but cannot provide a guarantee of such due to factors beyond the University's control, such as recordings being forwarded, copied, intercepted, circulated, disclosed, or stored without the University's knowledge or permission, or the

introduction of malware into computer system which could potentially damage or disrupt the computer, networks, and security settings. The University is not responsible for connectivity/technical difficulties or loss of data associated with your hardware, software, or Internet connection.

By engaging in course activities that involve recording, you are consenting to the use of your appearance, image, text/chat messaging, and voice and/or likeness in the manner and under the conditions specified herein. In the case of a live stream recording, if you choose not to have your image or audio recorded, you may disable the audio and video functionality. If you choose to participate using a pseudonym instead of your real name, you must disclose the pseudonym to your instructor in advance to facilitate class participation.

You are not permitted to disclose the link to/URL of an event or an event session recording or copies of recording to anyone, for any reason. Recordings are available only to authorized individuals who have been directly provided the above instructions/link for their use. Recordings for personal use, required to facilitate your learning and preparation of personal course/lecture notes, may not be shared with others without the permission of the instructor or event coordinator, and may not be published, posted, linked to, or otherwise made available online, including on social media feeds, even if those feeds are private.

Health and Safety

All York students and instructors share responsibility for the safety and well-being of the community while on York's campuses. Please continue to check [YUBetter Together](#) for the latest information on health and safety.

Student Support and Resources

To help you succeed academically, York University offers a wide range of resources and services. Everything from writing workshops and peer mentorship to wellness support and career guidance is available to fulfill our LA&PS students' needs. Explore the links below to access these on-campus resources:

- [Academic Advising](#) is available to provide students support and guidance in making academic decisions and goals.
- [Student Accessibility Services](#) are available for support and accessibility accommodation when required.
- [Student Counselling, Health & Wellbeing](#) offers workshops, resources, and counselling to support your academic success.
- [Peer-Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\) Program](#) provides student study sessions for students to collaborate and enhance their understanding of course content in certain courses.
- [Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele \(SNACK\)](#) supports students in courses involving math, stats, and Excel.

- [The Writing Centre](#) provides multiple avenues of writing-based support including drop-in sessions, one-to-one appointments, a Multilingual Studio, and an Accessibility Specialist.
- [ESL Open Learning Centre \(OLC\)](#) supports students with building proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking English.
- [Learning Skills Services](#) provides tips for time management, effective study and learning habits, keeping up with coursework, and other learning-related supports.
- [Learning Commons](#) provides links to supports for time management, writing, study skills, preparing for exams, and other learning-related resources.
- [Roadmap to Student Success](#) provides students with timely and targeted resources to help them achieve academic, personal, and professional success.
- [Office of Student Community Relations \(OSCR\)](#) is responsible for administering the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) and provides critical incident support.
- [goSAFE](#) is staffed by York students and can accompany York community members to and from any on-campus location, such as the Village Shuttle pick-up hub, parking lots, bus stops, or residences.

For a full list of academic, wellness, and campus resources visit [Student Support & Resources](#).

Additional Course Expectations to support success in this course:

- Students are expected to demonstrate preparedness for class, engagement with the material and with each other
- Students are expected to maintain their schedule of required readings and submission of assignments. Please note all key dates!
- Note that text chapter readings include the main chapter only. The articles following the main chapter content are considered optional unless otherwise assigned.
- The Fall term of this full year course requires students to read the assigned text chapters which will inform both the first and second term paper. The Winter term focusses on group presentations of government or agency reports as well as the continuation of all Discussion Forums. Full participation and collaboration in group preparation and presentation are essential for success.

For 2022–23, here are the drop deadlines provided by the [Registrar's Office](#). These are the last dates for students to drop a course without receiving a final grade:

- Fall term (F term): November 11, 2022
- Full year (Y term): February 10, 2023
- Winter term (Winter term): March 17, 2023

Course Schedule: Weekly Readings and Activities

Course Schedule The Course Schedule will be finalized in the First Class. Details of weekly readings is available on eclass.

Week/Module Dates	Readings and Activities	Assessment Due Dates
<p>FALL Week 1 Date Sept 12</p>	<p><u>Introductory Class held by Zoom</u> Please note that although this is an INPERSON Class, the first class will be held by Zoom. This allows for recording of the discussion of the Introduction, Learning Outcomes and Assignments, which will be posted for important future reference. Zoom link is posted in eclass</p> <p>Introductions Review of Course Outline, Assignments, Expectations Context for Learning; Q&A's; Success for All <i>Introductory email to nsanders@yorku.ca due Sept 14 or earlier</i></p>	<p>Send intro email by Sept 14</p>
<p>Week 2 Date Sept 19</p>	<p>In person Class Meeting What is Law? Sociology? Sociology of Law Structure of Justice/Structure of Society Activity: The Lady and the Tiger Reading: Trevino Ch 1; Short Story: The Lady and the Tiger (Stockton, 1882) Trevino Ch 2</p>	
<p>Week 3 Date Sept 26</p>	<p>Asynchronous Sociological Approaches to Law: Legal Formalism, Pounds Theory of Interests, Legal Realism Case Study: Juries – democratic hope in action? (Part 1) Readings: Trevino Ch 3, various readings from Juries in Canada Posting to Discussion Forum due Oct 2 noon</p>	<p>DF 1 (Juries part 1) due Oct 2 noon</p>

Week 4 Date Oct 3	In person Class Meeting Organization of Group Presentations Introduction to Marxian Perspective Activity: The Debates on the Law of Thefts of Wood Readings: Trevino Ch 4; The Debates on the Law on Thefts of Wood	
	Reading Week	
Week 5 Date Oct 17	Asynchronous Marxian Perspective Continued Case Study: Juries (Part 2) Posting to Discussion Forum Due Oct 23 noon <i>Cloze Activity due Oct 19 noon (participation)</i>	DF 2 due Oct 23 noon Cloze Activity due Oct 24 noon
Week 6 Date Oct 24	In person Class Meeting Introduction to Weberian Perspective The England Problem Activity: Why People Obey the Law Case Study Readings: Trevino Ch 5; Tom Tyler (1990) excerpt	
Week 7 Date Oct 31	Asynchronous Political Blind Date: Immigration Case Study Posting to Discussion Forum Nov 6 noon	DF 3 due Nov 6 noon
Week 8 Date Nov 7	In person Class Meeting Introduction to the Durkheimian Perspective Case Study: Sentencing Reforms Review of First Term Assignments Reading: Trevino Ch 6	
Week 9 Date Nov 14	Asynchronous Political Blind Date: Safe Injection Sites Case Study: Decriminalizing DUI Posting to Discussion Forum Nov 20 noon <i>Crossword due Nov 16 noon (participation)</i>	DF 4 due Nov 20 noon Crossword due Nov 21 noon
Week 10 Date Nov 21	In person Class Meeting Assignment Q&A Structural Functionalism and Conflict Theory Case Study Readings: Trevino Ch 7 and Ch 8	

Week 11 Date Nov 28	No Class Meeting Assignment Due	1 st Term Essay due Nov 28 11:30am
Week 12 Date Dec 5	Class Meeting TBD Review of Fall Term and Set Up for Winter Term Group Presentation Preparation	
WINTER Week 13 Date Jan 9	In person Class Meeting Outline of Term 2 Content and Assignments Overview: The Justice Process Criminal Sanctions in Canada: Corrections, Probation and Parole The Jordon Decision Understanding the Process of Bail and Remand Group Presentation: Honourable Raymond E. Wyant. Bail and Remand in Ontario. Dec 2016, Ministry of the Attorney General	Group Presentation due throughout Winter term
Week 14 Date Jan 16	Asynchronous The Jordon Decision The Office of the correctional Investigator https://www.ocibec.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx	
Week 15 Date Jan 23	In person Class Meeting The Role of Police; Oversight; OHRC challenges Racial Profiling Group Presentation: Honourable Michael H. Tulloch. Independent Police Oversight 2017 Group Presentation: Ontario Human Rights Commission. Under Suspicion: Research and Consultation Report on Racial Profiling in Ontario. April 2017	
Week 16 Date Jan 30	Asynchronous National Film Board: Conviction Posting to Discussion Forum Due Feb 5 noon	DF 5 due Nov 5 noon

Week 17 Date Feb 6	<p>In person Class Meeting United Nations Optional Protocol for the Prevention of Torture</p> <p>Group Presentation: Howard Sapers: Segregation in Ontario: Independent Review March 2017</p> <p>Group Presentation: Specialized Courts (1)The Human Services and Justice Co-ordinating Committee and Canadian Mental Health Association Ontario. A Review of the Initiation and Operation of Mental Health Courts Across the Province. Oct 2017</p>	
Week 18 Date Feb 13	<p>Asynchronous Artificial Intelligence; Predictive Reasoning and the Law Edward Snowden. Here's how we take back the Internet Glen Greenwald. Why Privacy Matters Ted Talk 2014</p> <p>Posting to Discussion Forum Feb 26 noon</p>	DF 6 due Feb 26 noon
	Reading Week	
Week 19 Date Feb 27	<p>In person Class Meeting Overrepresentation in the Criminal Justice System</p> <p>Group Presentation: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. June 3, 2019</p> <p>Group Presentation: Specialized Courts (2): Spotlight on Gladue: Challenges, Experiences and Possibilities Oct 2018</p>	
Week 20 Date March 6	<p>In person Class Meeting Media Representations, Misconceptions, and Impacts Rethinking Criminal Justice in Canada</p> <p>Group Presentation: Review of Final Assignments Law Commission of Ontario: The Rise and Fall of AI and Algorithms in American Criminal Justice: Lessons for Canada</p>	
Week 21 Date March 13	Individual Student Meetings (Zoom) -Individual meetings to discuss final papers as requested	
Week 22 Date March 20	<p>No Class Meeting Final Assignments Due March 18 noon</p>	Final Essay (Media) due March 20 11:30am

Week 23 Date March 27	Class Meeting TBD in person or Zoom Concluding Comments Course Evaluations	
Week 24 April 3	Individual Student Meetings as needed (no class)	