



LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social and Management Sciences
Department of Sociology and Psychology

COURSE PARTICULARS :

Course Code: SOC 219
Course Title: Sociology of Law
No. of Units: 2
Status: Elective

LECTURER DETAILS:

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Area of Specialization: Criminology and Penology

Course Description: This course introduces students to the origin and development of law, the social scientist' conception/views of Law against that of the Lawyers, the interrelationship of law and the social (culture), etc.

The course is designed for students to know the meta-theories about the origins of law and the relation of law to society, Sociological Perspectives/theories of law and legal behaviors: Why do people obey or not obey the law? Law and society, the legal institutions, jurisprudence, the relation between law and social change: can law be used to shape politics and society? And in-turn, how does societal change law?

Objective: This course explores the main debates and schools of thoughts within socio-legal studies.

The goal is to expose students to the various ways in which social scientists as against legal practitioners think about law and legal institutions, and how law matters to society, politics and culture. The course will not teach students to think like a lawyers but how to analyze the workings of Laws in the world through the social science. Works on contemporary legal issues will provide opportunities for students to draw connections between sociological theories and current events on legal issues.

Course Assessment: Grand Total = 100%

-Attendance: 5 marks
-Test(s) and Assignments: 25 marks
-Final Examination: 70%

LECTURE PLAN

Weeks	Topics
1	The origins and development of Law in the society
2	History and Changing Nature of Law (by Durkheim)
3	Modern Sociology of Law (i.e. Britain and United State of American)
4	Sociological Approaches to the study of Law
5	Socio-Legal Positivism, Legal Structure & Legislation
6	Law and Society
7	Sociological Jurisprudence: Roscoe Pound and Eugen Ehrlich
8	Schools of thought in General Jurisprudence: Natural Law, Legal positivism

9	Legal Realism and Critical Legal Studies.
10	Rational Theory by Max Weber.
11	Social Norms, Behaviour and Law by Aubert Vilhelm.
12	Law and Social Change: Legal Pluralism, Autopoiesis

READING LIST

1. Macaulay, S., Friedman. L. & Mertz, E. 2007. Law in Action: A Social-Legal Reader. NY: Foundation Press.
2. Travers, Max. 2010. Understanding Law and Society, pp.3-16. New York: Routledge.
3. Kidder, Robert L. 1983. Chapter 3 in Connecting Law and Society, pp.36-57.
4. Summer, H.G. 1996. Folkways & Mores. In The Sociology of Law, Trevino, A. Javier, 50-54 NY: St Martins's Press.
5. Rheinstein, Max 1954, [2007]. Max Weber on Law in Economy and Society. In Law Action, pp. 161-186.

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

1. "Law and Order, Order without Law" are axioms in Sociological study of Law. Discuss.
2. Discuss the origin and development of Law
3. Discuss the relevance of law as a legal institution to the Society.
4. Discuss the history of Law as viewed from the following frameworks:
(a) Ancient world (b) European Law (c) Islamic Law
5. Compare the sociological study of Law with that of the legal study of Law.
6. (a) What is Sociology of Law?
(b) What do you understand by Modern Sociology of Law?
7. Discuss the following Perspectives on the explanation of Law and Society:
(a) Legal Pluralism (b) Autopoiesis (c) Feminism
8. Discuss Rational Choice theory of Law by Max Weber
9. Briefly discuss the views of the following sociologists on Law:
(a) Roscoe Pound (b) Eugen Ehrlich.
10. Using Emile Durkheim's explanation, discuss how Law brings about social change.
11. Briefly discuss the following schools of thought in general jurisprudence:
(a) Natural Law (b) Legal Positivism
12. Briefly discuss the following: (a) Legal Realism (b) Critical Legal Studies.