

LPS002 *Critical Concepts in Law, Politics, and Society* Prof. Cramer

Meets: T/Th 8:00 – 9:15

Medbury 221

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In this course, you will be introduced to the critical concepts underpinning the study of Law, Politics, and Society. These concepts include, but are not limited to: ideology, justice and injustice, jurisprudence, jurisdiction, globalization, inequality and equality, community, authority, legitimacy, and individualism. You will also engage in the study of concepts key to understanding the workings of the major; you will learn about intentional interdisciplinarity, critical analysis, the perceived “law/politics divide”, comparative and historical research, and the idea of paradigmatic transition.

[Policies redacted]

The following resources are required for this course:

Calavita, Kitty. 2010. *Invitation to Law and Society: An Introduction to the Study of Real Law*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Eggers, Dave. 2013. *The Circle*. New York City: Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group.

Erdrich, Louise. 2012. *The Round House*. New York City: HarperCollins.

Massoud, Mark Fathi. 2014. *Law’s Fragile State: Colonial, Authoritarian, and Humanitarian Legacies in Sudan*. New York City: Cambridge University Press.

Mullane, Nancy. 2012. *Life After Murder: Five Men in Search of Redemption*. New York City: Public Affairs.

Scott, James. 2012. *Two Cheers for Anarchism! Six Easy Pieces on Autonomy, Dignity, and Meaningful Work and Play*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

All other materials as noted below and assigned; provided in class or via BlackBoard.

Grading and Schedule of Assessments [Redacted]

Course Outline

I. Identifying Critical Concepts in Law, Politics, and Society

January 27 **Introductions**

January 29

Have read: Erdrich, pages 1 - 148

February 3

Have read: Erdrich, pages 148 – end

February 5

Have read: Calavita, 1 – 9

Listen to: Block Boss Podcast

Bring: Response 1

February 10

Have read: Calavita, 10 – 50

February 12

Have read: Mullane, 1 – 68

Listen to: One Reporter on Death Row

February 17

Have read: Mullane, 69 – 180

February 19

Have read: Mullane, 181 – 250

February 24

Have read: Mullane, 251 – end

Listen to: Full Interview with Justin Helzer

Bring: Paper 1

February 26

Have read: Calavita, pages 51 – 93

Listen to: Two Sides of the River

March 3

Have read: Calavita, 94 – 147

Marc Galanter, “How the Have’s Come Out Ahead,” on BlackBoard

March 5

Have read: Calavita, 148 – 154

Stuart Scheingold, “The Myth of Rights,” on BlackBoard

March 10 Review for Mid-Term

No additional readings

March 12 Mid-Term Exam

March 16 – 22 Spring Break

March 24

Have read: Eggers, 1 – 190

Listen to: Privacy Issues

Bring: Response 2

March 26

Have read: Eggers, 190 - 306

March 31

Have read: Eggers, 306 - 497

April 2

No additional readings

April 7

Have read: Massoud, 1-43, 231-248

April 9

Have read: Massoud, 44 – 118

April 14

Have read: Massoud, 119 – 181

April 16

Have read: Massoud, 181 – 230

April 21

Have read: Scott, ix – xxvi; 1 -30

Bring: Paper 2

April 23

Have read: Scott, 30 – 57

April 27 Movie Night: Citizen Four!

April 28

Have read: Scott, 57 – 84

Joel Hermer and Alan Hunt, “Official Graffiti of the Everyday,” on BlackBoard

April 30

Have read: Scott, 84 – 100

Listen to: Fair Share

Bring: Response 3

May 1 Live Law!**May 5**

Have read: Scott, 101 – 129

Jonathan Simon, “The Politics of Actuarial Practice,” on BlackBoard

May 7

Have read: Scott, 129 – 143

Final Exam: Take Home