

LJC 2000 Core Course in Law, Justice & Culture

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My office is 423 Bentley ANNEX (next door to Bentley Hall). Office hours are Monday and Wednesday 1-2:30. If these times conflict with your schedule, email me and we will find a time that works.

When & Where We meet Monday evenings, 6:05-8:50 PM, in Bentley 220.

Course Description Welcome, 2016-17 cohort. This course is an introduction to the study of law and society from a liberal arts perspective for students admitted to the certificate program in Law, Justice & Culture. We read and discuss scholarly work from a variety of disciplines including anthropology, criminology, political science, and history. Our primary concern is with tensions between law and justice in U.S. and international contexts. We also scrutinize the sources and methods scholars use to pursue their studies. Along the way, we seek out examples of law operating in life and culture around campus. In this way, the course offers entry to an intellectual community extending far beyond the classroom.

Class meetings are flexibly structured around sharing campus news and events (± 15 mins.), general reactions to reading (± 20 mins.), student-led discussion of reading (45-60 mins.), recap, follow-up Q&A, and preview of the coming week (45-60 mins.). A short break usually fits in there somewhere and occasionally we will end early for a lecture or film screening.

Communication I usually respond to emails within 24 hours. Check your OU email account regularly or set up forwarding to an account you check. We use Blackboard for grade information and submitting assignments. Bookmark the link to the online syllabus and check it regularly for new information.

Assessment & Grades Students who keep to the reading schedule, allowing time to take notes and reflect on the material, submit assignments on time, and engage thoughtfully in discussions will have little difficulty earning a satisfactory grade. Course policies are described with more detail in a separate online document. Please come see me in office hours whenever and as soon as you have concerns about your progress. I am happy to help, once I know you want assistance.

10% Participation Hearing what your classmates have to say is as important as your having thoughtful things to say. Prepare. Take notes. Distracting behavior such as arriving late or texting earns negative credit. More than three unexcused absences leads to a failing grade for the course.

5% Campus Events Attend at least three events relevant to law, justice, and culture over the course of the semester. Submit a brief (± 300 words) reaction on Blackboard and plan to share your experience in the next class, connecting it to current or previous readings or discussions.

5% Discussion Leader Each student will join two or three others in leading discussion at least once. Think of several questions or prompts to help stimulate conversation about the reading. Share them with me (email or in person) between 1 and 2:30 on that Monday, then email them to the class by 5.

20% Responses A common template is provided for ten reading assignments. Choose any eight to complete. Type your responses and upload them as .doc or .docx files on Blackboard by 5PM.

40% Reports Five topical essays, ± 750 words, asking you to synthesize reading and discussions.

20% Final Essay ± 1000 words on the role law plays in your life and the relationship you want to have with law, justice, and culture in the future. In preparation, I will ask you to re-read your CLJC application essay; to reflect on a favorite reading from the semester and what it means to you; and,

finally, to outline some relevant goals for your education, work, and social life. Due on Blackboard by 7PM Monday, Apr. 24 as scheduled by the Registrar.

I calculate letter grades according to a standard grading scale (e.g. 80-82 = B- | 83-86 = B | 87-89 = B+) with numerical grades rounded to the nearest whole number (e.g. 89.50 = 90 /A- but 89.49 = 89/ B+).

Course Materials You are responsible for completing all assigned readings before the indicated class meeting. The following books may be purchased or read in the CLJC or from course reserves in Alden:

- Bâ, *So Long a Letter* (Waveland Press, 2012).
- Bell, *Faces at the Bottom of the Well: The Permanence of Racism* (Basic Books, 1992).
- Calavita, *Invitation to Law & Society: An Introduction to the Study of Real Law* (Chicago, 2016).
- Ewick & Silbey, *The Common Place of Law: Stories from Everyday Life* (Chicago, 2008).
- Gilliom & Monahan, *SuperVision: An Introduction to the Surveillance Society* (Chicago, 2012).
- Hopgood, *The Endtimes of Human Rights* (Cornell, 2015).
- Tucker, *Women, Family, and Gender in Islamic Law* (Cambridge, 2008).

Additional readings are available electronically, including Mueenuddin, “The Burning Girl,” in *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* (2009), and Cole, “No Equal Justice,” 1 Conn. Pu. Int. L.J. (2001).

Class Schedule

INTRODUCTION

- Week 1 (Jan. 9) Mueenuddin (pp. 97-111); Calavita, chs. 1-2.
- Week 2 (Jan. 16) *No class MLK Jr. Day.*
- Week 3 (Jan. 23) Cole (pp. 19-33); begin Ewick & Silbey (pp. xi-xiii, 3-53). [Response #1 due]
- (Jan. 25) Report #1: Law & Order in Life due

LAW, LEGALITY, & SOCIETY

- Week 4 (Jan. 30) Ewick & Silbey (pp. 57-63, 74-107, 120-64, 180-220, 223-50). [Response #2 due]
- Week 5 (Feb. 6) Discuss courtroom reports; Calavita, chs. 3, 6.
- (Feb. 8) Report #2: In the Courtroom due

RIGHTS & BOUNDARIES

- Week 6 (Feb. 13) Gilliom & Monahan (pp. vi-vii, 1-141). [Response #3 due]
- Week 7 (Feb. 20) Hopgood (pp. 1-118). [Response #4 due]
- Week 8 (Feb. 27) Hopgood (pp. 119-82). [Response #5 due]
- Lazaroff lecture: Marion Kaplan on Jewish Refugees in Portugal
- (Mar. 1) Report #3: Change the World due

Spring Break

LAW, GENDER, & PLURALISM

- Week 9 (Mar. 13) Bâ (pp. i-vi, 1-95); Tucker (pp. 1-37). [Response #6 due]
- Week 10 (Mar. 20) Tucker (pp. 38-83 or 84-132, 133-174, 218-25); Calavita, ch. 5. [Response #7 due]
- (Mar. 22) Report #4: Avenues of Justice due

LAW, RACE, & PROGRESS

- Week 11 (Mar. 27) Bell (pp. ix-xiii, 1-46); Calavita, ch. 4. [Response #8 due]
- Week 12 (Apr. 3) Bell (pp. 47-64 or 89-108, 109-27, 147-200); Calavita, ch. 7. [Response #9 due]
- (Apr. 5) Report #5: Taking Action due

LAW & CULTURE

Week 13 (Apr. 10) Calavita, chs. 8-9 (2nd ed.) [Response #10 due]

Week 14 (Apr. 17) Reflection, Revision, & Discussion