This course addresses law from a sociological perspective. We will test several common assumptions about law: that it embodies morality; that it ensures justice; that it serves everyone’s interests; that it constrains behavior; that it can be used to bring about social change. We will end with the issue of what role law plays in countries making transitions from violence and repression.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:
- Define multiple types of law and justice and explain the relationship between the two
- Explain the relationship between law and other forms of social control
- Define “transitional justice” and explain issues arising in multiple transitional settings.

Expectations: I expect students to come to class. Unexcused absences will lower your grade. I expect students to participate actively in class discussions. Students should give the reading thoughtful consideration prior to class, so you can ask questions about aspects of the material you find confusing and contribute to class discussion. Your work should be original (i.e. not completed for another course or by another person). Plagiarism (using the ideas of others without attribution) or cheating of any kind will result in a failing grade for the assignment. More than one instance will result in a failing grade for the course. Papers will lose half a letter grade for each day they are late.

You may not use your cell phone during class unless you are expecting an emergency phone call. Please let Dr. Smithey know if you are expecting an emergency call.

Required Texts:

Evaluation:
- Film Paper 15%
- 2 Exams 25% each
- Final Paper 25%
- Participation 10%
Topics (with approximate dates):

I. Introduction to/Sources of Law (January 17-24)

Text Chap. 1
Text Chap. 14, pp. 57-62
*excerpt from *Law’s Violence* 1992

II. Law and Justice (Jan 26–Feb 7)

Text Chap. 2
*excerpt from Altman *Arguing About Law*

King “Letter From a Birmingham Jail”

Film: “A Man for All Seasons”

III. Crime (Feb 9-14)

Text Chap. 5
*Durkheim excerpt from *The Sociological Method*

*Beccaria “Essays on Crime and Punishment”

*“Moral Panics”

**Paper Due** February 16

IV. Law and the Regulation of Vice (Feb 16-21)

Text Chap. 10

**EXAM 1** Feb 23

V. Law and Social Change (Feb 28-Mar.2)

Text Chap. 11

*Franklin and Kosaki “Republican Schoolmaster” APSR 1989

http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/history/johnson/roe2.pdf

VI. Law and Social Control  (Mar. 12-April 6)

Text Chap. 9


*excerpt from Mair, *Primitive Government*

*excerpt from Bracey *Exploring Law & Culture*


*Tyler Why People Cooperate, Chapter 3, 2010

Arellano *Vigilantes and Lynch Mobs*

Film: “Last of the Mohicans”

**EXAM 2**  **April 9**

VII. Transitional Justice  (April 14- May 4)

Rowen. *Searching for Truth in the Transitional Justice Movement*


Film: “Long Night’s Journey into Day”

**Final Paper Due**  **May 11th**
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