

Chc/Lat 145
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SOCIAL ECOLOGY J 111
LATINOS AND THE LAW
PROF. JOHN DOMBRINK
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY, LAW AND SOCIETY
WINTER 1999

TUESDAY 7:00-9:50 P.M.

SSL 248 (NOTE: ROOM CHANGE)

TA: CLAUDIA LAVENANT

LAVENANT OFFICE SE II ROOM TBA

LAVENANT OFFICE HOURS: TBA

LAVENANT PHONE: TBA

LAVENANT EMAIL: celavena@uci.edu

DOMBRINK OFFICE HOURS: MONDAYS 1

DOMBRINK OFFICE: 2315 SE II

DOMBRINK PHONE: 949-824-6223

E-MAIL: JDDOMBRI@UCI.EDU

Course web site: <http://ccc.uci.edu/99W/50430>

UNDERGRADUATE DISCUSSION LEADERS: ALFONSO OCHOA, ALMA SOTO, STACY CALZADA, GUADALUPE VIDALES, IRMA HERNANDEZ, SANDY SANDOVAL, JOSEPHINE SANDOVAL, EDUARDO RIZO, PRISCILA ZUNIGA, RAUL BUENROSTRO

Course Description:

This course examines a range of theoretical, empirical and policy approaches to legal issues affecting the Latino population, with an emphasis on California. The course discusses topics concerning the purpose of law, the creation of law, and the enforcement of law.

Specifically, the first half of the course will look at theories of the role of law, empirical studies of the creation of law and the concept of legal culture. It will examine the historical context of Latino citizenship and immigration and legal conflict. It will also examine the role of law in specific domains of everyday life, such as work, education and political representation and participation, and the role of civil rights strategies in effecting social change through law. The second half of the course looks at Latinos in the criminal justice context, including the role of police and police-community issues, including police use of force, gangs, and treatment within the justice system.

Required reading:

Daniel Rothenberg, With These Hands: The Hidden World of Migrant Farmworkers Today. New York: Harcourt Brace. 1998 (hardbound)

Francisco A. Rosales, Chicano! The History of the Mexican-American Civil Rights Movement. Houston: Arte Publico Press. 1996 (paper)

Martin Sanchez Jankowski, Islands in the Street: Gangs and American Urban Society. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991. (paper)

Jerome H. Skolnick and James Fyfe, Above the Law: Police and the Excessive Use of Force. New York: Free Press, 1993 (paper)

Books are also available on 2 hour reserve at the Main Library reserve reading room.

The course requirements are:

1. two midterms, each worth 20% (total: 40%)
2. one 8-10 page paper, due on Monday of Finals week, (March 8) by Noon at my mailbox, 2340 SE II (total:30%)
3. three e-mail essays, as described below (30%)

The two midterms will be: a) take-home midterm given out on January 26, due back on February 2. Based on lecture, Chapters 1-10 of Rothenberg, and Chapters 1, 7 and 8 of Rosales. (20%)
b) in-class midterm (essay format) on February 23, covering lecture, Chapters 2, 3 and 5 of Sanchez Jankowski, and Chapters 2, 4 and 5 of Skolnick and Fyfe. (20%)

Paper topics will be distributed at the first class. Papers will concentrate on the readings, the lectures, and the guest lectures. Group papers will be allowed for groups of three students wishing to focus on a local agency involved in the issues in the course (30%).

The three assignments comprise a novel feature of the course. Every student will be assigned to a group of three students (your "group"). Students in the class will be in either Section A, section B or section C for the entire course. During the quarter, each student is required to complete three 350-400 word e-mail essays, each worth 10% of your grade (total 30%). E-mail messages are sent by you to the other two members of your group, to me (jddombri@uci.edu) and to the TA (celavena@uci.edu) by Thursday at 10 p.m. of the week of your assignment. The topics will be discussed weekly in discussion sections.

Student in Section A

- Week 2 Supports police interrogating possible gang members
- Week 7 Critiques Pro and Con position – sentence enhancements
- Week 9 Opposes deportation of criminally convicted immigrants

Student in Section B

- Week 3 Opposes police interrogating possible gang members
- Week 5 Supports sentence enhancements for gang membership
- Week 10 Critiques pro and Con position -- immigrants

Student in Section C

- Week 4 Critiques Pro and Con Position – gang members and police
- Week 6 Opposes sentence enhancements for gang membership
- Week 8 Supports deportation of criminally convicted immigrants

Extra credit can be accumulated in two ways.

Attendance at 7 of the 10 weekly undergraduate TA discussion sections will count for a grade increase of one increment ("B" to "B+" for example). To achieve this increase, you need to attend the discussion section for which you are enrolled.

Also, attendance at community meetings announced in class, and writing of a one-page summary of each, will count for 2 points, for a maximum of 10 points, which can be applied to the two tests.

Guest speakers are an important element of this course. Some will speak to issues directly discussed in the text, some to e-mail essay topics as well, others to important contemporary policy issues, and others to their experience as professionals in the criminal justice system or legal system. For the prior offering of the course, speakers included: United Neighborhoods; Santa Ana Police Department; Fair Housing Council of Orange County; local lawyers: Los Amigos of Orange County; Schoolwatch Sentry
Additional speakers being arranged for this offering include those as well as: UCLA law school La Raza student association; probation departments; Anaheim Police; and Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF).

The course will be offered again in 1999-2000.

Undergraduate discussion sections

Section 1 50431	Tuesday 5:00-5:50	SST 238
Section 2 50432	Tuesday 6:00-6:50	SSL 206
Section 3 50433	Thursday 3:00-3:50	SSL 206
Section 4 50434	Wednesday 2:00 – 2:50	SSTR 100
Section 5 50435	-----	SST 238
Section 6 50436	Monday 3:00-3:50	TBA

COURSE READING SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Tuesday January 5 Introduction; start reading Rothenberg

WEEK 2 Tuesday January 12 Rothenberg, Chapters 1, 2, 8, 9; Rosales, Chapter 8

WEEK 3 Tuesday January 19 Rothenberg, Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6; Rosales, Chapter 1

WEEK 4 Tuesday January 26 Rothenberg, Chapters 7, 10; Rosales, Chapter 7; Take-home exam handed out at 9:15; due back in class Tuesday February 2 at 7:00 (25%)

WEEK 5 Tuesday February 2 Sanchez Jankowski, Chapters 2 and 3; Rosales Chapter 10

WEEK 6 Tuesday February 9 Sanchez Jankowski, Chapter 5; Skolnick and Fyfe, Chapter 2; Rosales Chapter 11

WEEK 7 Tuesday February 16 Skolnick and Fyfe, Chapters 4 and 5; Rosales Chapter 12

WEEK 8 Tuesday February 23 In class essay exam (7:00 – 8:20, 25%); lecture 8:30-9:50

WEEK 9 Tuesday March 2 Sanchez Jankowski, Chapters 6 and 8; Rosales Chapter 13

WEEK 10 Tuesday March 9 Skolnick and Fyfe, Chapter 6 and 7; Rosales Chapter 14