

TERM & YEAR

CJ 301

LAW
in
SOCIETY

Professor: Burrel Vann Jr

Room: TBD

Day & Time: TBD

Schedule #: TBD

DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will examine the functions and purpose of law within society. We focus on the American legal system, where law comes from, and how it shapes our daily lives - the organization of society, our relationships, and our behaviors.

We begin with an introduction to different forms of law in the U.S., highlighting criminal law, and move onto the control functions of the law. We will discuss theorists' distinct perspectives on law to understand its function and its role in maintaining and distributing power in contemporary American society. We conclude the course with critiques of how law is done in practice, and offer some fresh alternatives to the implementation of laws in the U.S.

OBJECTIVES (SLOs)

1. Explain the purpose of formal law and its development as a form of social control
2. Articulate understandings of law from different theoretical frameworks
3. Differentiate between law "in theory" and law "in practice"
4. Describe informal and alternative forms of social control

CONTACT

Professor: Burrel Vann Jr

Email: bvannjr@sdsu.edu

Office: <https://sdsu.zoom.us/s/81468538945>

Office Hours: By appointment only, on Wednesdays: 9:00am-10:00am

EMAIL POLICY:

When emailing about the course, please provide the course number and time. I check email twice per day, Monday through Friday, between 9:00am and 5:00pm. Please allow 72 hours for a response.

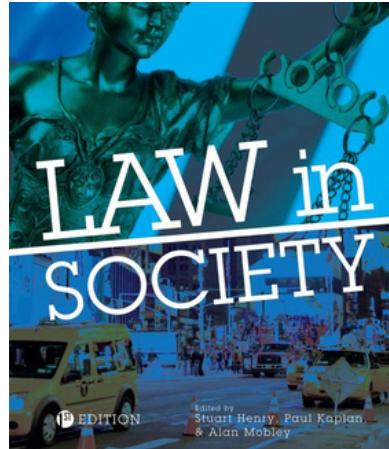
Requesting Help:

If you miss a class meeting, you should: First, look on the course website for material you missed. Second, if you need help understanding material, you should contact your classmates via Canvas (direct email or discussion board). Third, if you still find it difficult to understand the material, email me to schedule an appointment chat with me during Zoom office hours. For office hours, I require 3-days notice to schedule a meeting.

Requesting Non-Office-Hours Zoom Meetings:

If you still need help but cannot attend office hours, you may email me to request a meeting. For Non-Office-Hours Zoom meetings, I require a minimum of one-week notice.

MATERIALS



BOOK

REQUIRED

Articles & Book Chapters

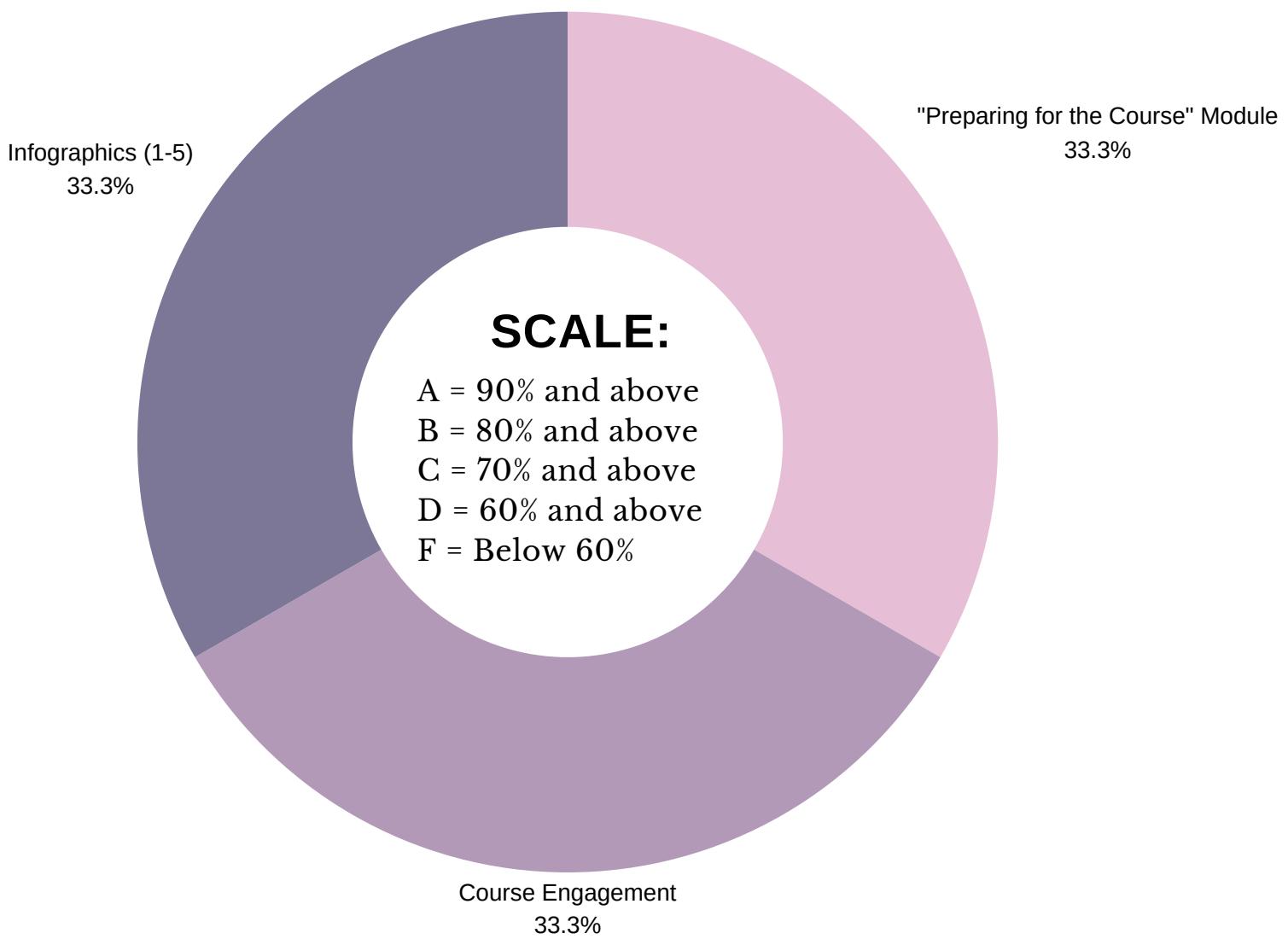
TECHNOLOGY ACCESS:

To be successful in this class, students will be required to have access to a computer with an internet connection and Google Drive.

- **Computer w/ Internet Access:**
 - Students must be able to access the course material.
 - **Google Drive:**
 - Students will submit their assignments via Google Docs.
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GRADING

Final grades will be based on the "preparing for the course" module, course engagement (e.g. maintaining consistent online activity), and five (5) infographics for a total of 150 points. This class does **NOT** use the +/- grading breakdown.



GRADING/REGRADING POLICY:

Students who wish for an assignment to be regraded are required to submit a written formal request, stating why the work warrants a higher grade, within seven (7) days of the date when the graded work is returned. Beyond these seven (7) days, assignment will not be regraded. A regrade may result in the same, a higher, or a lower grade - although students requesting a regrade on an assignment often receive a lower grade.

No late work will be accepted. In extreme circumstances, however, written documentation will be required before late work is accepted.

50 PTS

COURSE PREPARATION MODULE

During Week 1, students will complete a check of the email policy, a check that they have updated their Canvas profile, and a video introduction about themselves (on the class discussion board).

50 PTS

COURSE ENGAGEMENT

Attendance for this class is critical for your overall success, as it allows you to engage with the content on the role of law in society.

Engagement entails regular/consistent accessing of the course content (e.g. logging in and accessing the material on Canvas).

50 PTS

INFOGRAPHICS (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Throughout the course, mixed in with the course content, students will complete five assignments called infographics.

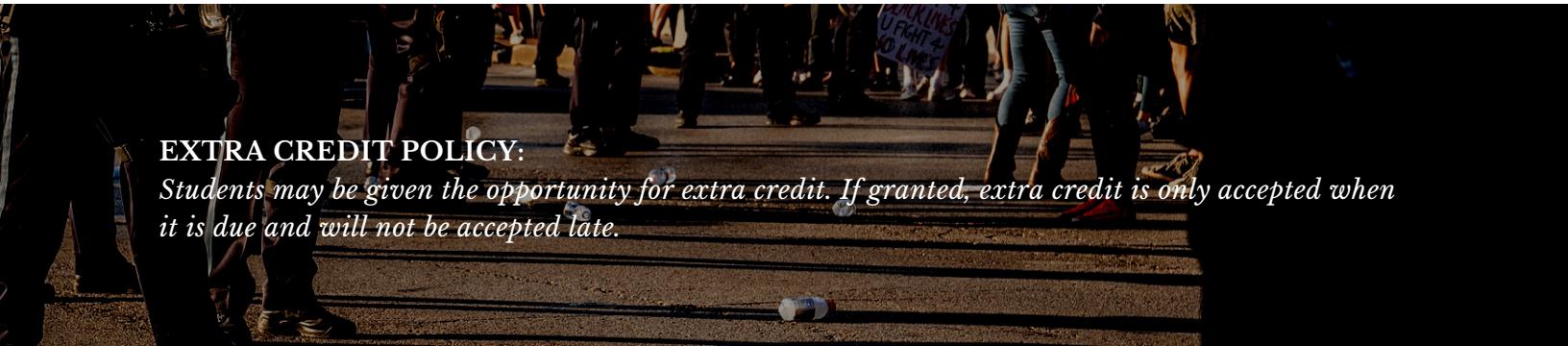
Each infographic assignment begins with a task (e.g. watch a video or contemplate a situation) and students will be required to respond to a prompt.

Students have complete latitude (within reasonable classroom conduct) to create an infographic that they think answers the prompt. The infographic should include a combination of words and images.

Feel free to use any tool to create the infographic, although Canva and Google Slides are good choices.

EXTRA CREDIT POLICY:

Students may be given the opportunity for extra credit. If granted, extra credit is only accepted when it is due and will not be accepted late.



ENROLLMENT

PREREQUISITES FOR COURSE:

Credit or concurrent registration with **CJ 300**.

ADDING & DROPPING:

Students must make adjustments to their course schedule by the add/drop deadline indicated in the current term's **Academic Calendars**.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Please be courteous to your classmates and me by remaining engaged and respectful. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that does not interfere with the educational experience of others. Additionally, turn cell phones and other electronic devices on silent during class time. Laptops may be used for taking notes while in class.

ACADEMIC (DIS)HONESTY:

The University adheres to a strict policy regarding **cheating and plagiarism** (outlined in **Executive Order 1098**). These activities will not be tolerated in this class. Become familiar with the policy and what constitutes plagiarism. Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failing this class and a disciplinary review by the University. These actions may lead to probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to:

- Using sources verbatim or paraphrasing without giving proper attribution (this can include phrases, sentences, paragraphs and/or pages of work)
 - Copying and pasting work from an online or offline source directly and calling it your own
 - Using information you find from an online or offline source without giving the author credit
 - Replacing words or phrases from another source and inserting your own words or phrases
 - Submitting a piece of work you did for one class to another class
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RESOURCES

A complete list of all academic support services is available on the [Academic Success](#) section of the [Student Affairs](#) website.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Please inform the instructor during the first week of classes about any special needs that require specific arrangements related to attending class sessions, carrying out class assignments, or writing papers or examinations. According to California State University policy, students with "disabilities" must document their special needs at the Student Disability Services (SDS) in order to receive accommodations for their courses. Additional information can be found at the [SDS website](#), by calling **619-594-6473**, or by email at sds@sdsu.edu.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS):

CAPS offers confidential counseling services by licensed psychologists, counselors, and social workers. More info can be found at their website or by contacting **619-594-5220**. You can also [Live Chat](#) with a counselor between 4:00pm and 10:00pm, or call San Diego Access and Crisis 24-hour Hotline at **888-724-7240**.

WRITING CENTER:

For help with improving your writing ability, the staff at the SDSU [Writing Center](#) is available in person and online.

STUDENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

Student support for Canvas is provided by the Library Computing Hub, located on the 2nd floor of Love Library. They can be reached at **619-594-3189** or by emailing hub@sdsu.edu.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Information about SDSU's emergency preparedness policy can be found at [Campus Emergency Preparedness](#).

D.E.I.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

In this class, through readings, exercises, and activities, we are committed to honoring the diversity of experiences, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, culture, language, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, national origin, colonial status, immigration status, religion, age, ability, as well as underrepresented, first-generation, veteran, and non-traditional status. Through the inclusion and honoring of diversity, we hope to highlight the ways in which equity can be accomplished.

CHANGES TO MATERIAL:

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, including the course outline, at any time, based on the pace of the class. For face-to-face classes, this may include hybrid format lectures, where there will no class meeting, but students are expected to read online lecture materials.

1

MODULE 1

READ/WATCH*Preparing for the Course Module***DUE**

Email Policy Check (1/27)
Updated Profile Check (1/27)
Video Introductions (1/27)

JAN 22

INTRODUCTION & PREPARING FOR THE COURSE**2**

MODULE 2

READ/WATCH*Read: Introduction; Functions of Law***DUE**

JAN 29

THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM AND ITS FUNCTIONS**3**

MODULE 2

READ/WATCH*Read: Criminal Law***DUE***Infographic #1 (2/10)*

FEB 5

CRIMINAL LAW**4**

MODULE 3

READ/WATCH*Read: Theories of Law and Justice***DUE**

FEB 12

THEORIES OF LAW**5**

MODULE 3

READ/WATCH**DUE***Infographic #2 (2/24)*

FEB 19

THEORIES OF LAW (CONTINUED)**6**

MODULE 4

READ/WATCH*Read: Legal Realism***DUE**

FEB 26

LEGAL REALISM**7**

MODULE 4

READ/WATCH*Read: Legal Relativity***DUE**

MAR 4

LEGAL RELATIVITY**8**

MODULE 5

READ/WATCH*Read: Critical Legal Studies***DUE**

MAR 11

CRITIQUING THE APPLICATION OF LAW

9	MODULE 5	READ/WATCH Read: <i>Critical Race Theory; Feminist Legal Studies</i>	DUE
MAR 18			
		CRITIQUING THE APPLICATION OF LAW (CONTINUED)	
10	MODULE 5	READ/WATCH Watch: <i>18th</i>	DUE Infographic #3 (3/30)
MAR 25			
		BIAS IN THE APPLICATION OF LAW	
11		READ/WATCH	DUE
APR 1			
		SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)	
12	MODULE 6	READ/WATCH Read: <i>Restorative Justice</i>	DUE
APR 8			
		RESTORATIVE JUSTICE	
13	MODULE 6	READ/WATCH	DUE Infographic #4 (4/20)
APR 15			
		RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICE	
14	MODULE 7	READ/WATCH Read: <i>Prison and Parole</i>	DUE
APR 22			
		PRISON AND PAROLE	
15	MODULE 7	READ/WATCH Watch: <i>Life on Parole</i>	DUE Infographic #5 (5/2)
APR 29			
		PRISON AND PAROLE (CONTINUED)	
16		READ/WATCH	DUE
MAY 3-9			
		FINALS	
