The requirements of this course are simple. Each student is to write an extensive paper on a sociology of law topic of his or her choice, after approval of the instructor. The paper, 20–25 pages in length and extensively footnoted, will review the relevant legal, sociological and historical literature and present evidence testing hypotheses posed by the student author. It is due – IN FINAL FORM – on March 26, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. Failure to meet this deadline is a 2-letter grade reduction. (You’ll thank me later in life). Each member of the class will then be assigned 5 papers to read and carefully comment on by the following Monday. Based on those commentaries, students may edit and polish their papers and submit the edited version on or before April 23, 2004.

A number of papers – based purely on the arbitrary and capricious whims of the instructor – will be selected for additional class discussions.

Class discussions in the first half of the semester will take us through discussions of the social origins of Tort, Contract, Property, Domestic Relations, and other selected areas of the law.

The paper and class participation will determine the grade in the class. There is no required reading.

Attendance is expected and I will dock students one full letter grade if more than three classes are missed. The honor code will apply to self reporting of absences. Illness, college activities, sports, and other legitimate reasons will not count toward the 3 mental health days allowed.