

PLS 370 LAW, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY

Nazarbayev University

Fall 2023

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 12:00 – 12:50 Room 8319

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Welcome to the Law, Politics, and Society course! This course will introduce you to the field of law by examining how law intersects with politics and society. We will examine how, when, and why law works or fails to work in regulating social behavior in different parts of the world, including Kazakhstan. We will study how law is useful or harmful in exercising social control, resolving disputes, and creating social change. First, we will discuss various explanations and justifications of how and why law works and does not work. Next, we will study the institutions, players, and processes that make up the legal system and explore their resources, arguments and the outcomes of their actions or inaction. Our discussions throughout the course will focus on the distinctions among:

- 1) law, politics, and morality,
- 2) “law on the books” and “law on the ground,” and
- 3) legal rules and the perceptions of these rules among legal actors.

Learning more about these distinctions, real and artificial, will help us sharpen our judgments about concrete social problems, which we will discuss throughout the course.

Course Aims

1. To understand the role that law and legal institutions play in politics and ordinary lives.
2. To introduce students to the wide range of methodological perspectives by which law can be studied.
3. To evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of using the legal system vs. other methods for solving public and private problems.

This course outline is subject to change depending on the class size and student interests.

Course Format

Our classes will be a combination of lecture and discussion format. I will usually spend some time at the beginning of class discussing the specific research topic and issues under consideration. The latter part of the class will be devoted to the discussion of assigned book chapters and articles. Depending on the class size, we will use in-class exercises to apply what we have learned to ensure we understand the concepts and ideas presented in the lectures and course readings. We will also watch films and videos about how law actually functions in different countries.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet, but you may not sign the attendance sheet for another student as this can be deemed forgery and will warrant disciplinary procedures. More than two unexcused absences will result in a 5% deduction of the total course grade. Missing the class without prior permission from the instructor or without a written excuse (for example, official doctor's note) will be deemed an unexcused absence. Absences due to valid reasons must be negotiated with the instructor prior to missing class. Students who arrive late, leave early, or are disruptive in class will be counted absent.

Class policies

- Mobile phones must be turned off during all class sessions.
- The 10-page paper must use Times New Roman font, size 12, be double-spaced and submitted on Moodle. Do not submit assignments via email unless I ask you to do so.
- No use of AI-generated text is allowed.
- No late assignments will be accepted.
- I reserve the right to change this syllabus, including adding or subtracting readings, changing due dates, etc. but will give students ample warning in writing (via email, in class etc.)
- While you are welcome to email anytime about any issue you may be having in the class, please use proper email etiquette. Please start your email with "Dear Professor Trochev". I will not answer emails that use an improper salutation.
- I will also not answer emails that can be answered by looking at the syllabus.
- Do not expect me to answer your emails right away. It usually takes me at least 24 hours to answer emails.

Required Readings

Readings will be posted on the Moodle's course website.

Completing Perusall tasks after each reading

You must read assigned texts (up to 100 pages for each class) prior to each class. each reading. You must complete at least 40 Perusall tasks to earn 90% of the grade for this assignment (no more than 4 completed tasks per week will be counted towards the grade). These Perusall tasks must be completed on Moodle before each class. You will be asked about these tasks during each and every class. If you do not complete these tasks, you will not earn a high grade in this class. Paraphrasing from others or using AI-generated text or "pouring water" in these tasks are not allowed. Remember: there are no stupid questions in this course. In fact, the essence of social science and legal research is to be skeptical about well-established truths and about asking questions. As we will learn in this course, asking and sharpening your questions is as much important as addressing them.

Writing Assignments

1. You will write one in-class test.
2. You will write four pop-up (unannounced) quizzes

3. You will write one 10-page-long double-spaced paper. Paper topics will be announced in class.
4. You will deliver one in-class 5-minute-long presentation of the key points of your paper.

Grading scale

A	95-100%;	A-	90-94		
B+	85-89;	B	80-84;	B-	75-79
C+	70-74;	C	65-69;	C-	60-64
D	55-59;	D-	50-54		
F	0-49				

Grading

Class Attendance 0%	
Class participation 10%	CLOs#1,3,4
4 pop-up quizzes 5% each =20%	CLOs#1,3
Perusall task completion =15% (40 Perusall tasks → 90%)	CLOs#1,3,4
1 in-class test 20% = 20%	CLOs#1,4
In-Class Presentation 10% = 10%	CLOs#1,2,3,4
1 10-page paper 25% = 25%	CLOs#1,2,3,4
TOTAL 100%	

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

By the end of the course, students are expected to:

1. Understand the major theoretical and philosophical approaches to legal and political science research in interdisciplinary context.
2. Become familiar with and be able to apply the major techniques in research to a paper required for a university course, a policy brief or other government documents
3. Develop the skills necessary to find, read, understand, and critique published research and on-line material
4. Acquire the ability to select the proper knowledge and skills for application to practical research, and to identify strategies for dealing with problems, obstacles, and ethical concerns

Nazarbayev University Graduate Attributes

By taking this course, students will have an opportunity to develop the NU Graduate Attributes:

Course Learning Outcome #	Program Learning Outcomes to which CLOs are linked	NU Graduate Attributes to which CLOs are linked
1,3	Knowledge: Students will demonstrate knowledge of the discipline of political science and its subfields in terms of content, purpose and methods. (PLO 1)	Possess an in-depth and sophisticated understanding of their domain of study

2,4	Political Analysis: Students will develop the ability to apply their knowledge of the Political Science to analyze domestic and international socio-political issues. (PLO 4)	Be intellectually agile, curious, creative and open-minded
3,4	Critical thinking and information literacy: Students will develop the ability to apply, synthesize, and analyze materials (e.g., data or texts) and to think critically. (PLO 2)	Be thoughtful decision makers who know how to involve others
2,4	Political Analysis: Students will develop the ability to apply their knowledge of the Political Science to analyze domestic and international socio-political issues. (PLO 4)	Be entrepreneurial, self-propelling and able to create new opportunities
2,4	Communication Skills: Majors will demonstrate the necessary oral and written skills to convey their knowledge about political science to others. (PLO 3)	Be fluent and nuanced communicators across languages and cultures
2,3,4	Tolerance: Students will be able to listen to and be tolerant to different ideas. (PLO 5)	Be cultured and tolerant citizens of the world
2,3,4	Critical thinking and information literacy: Students will develop the ability to apply, synthesize, and analyze materials (e.g., data or texts) and to think critically. (PLO 2)	Demonstrate high personal integrity
3,4	Civic Virtues: To provide opportunities to students to link theory and practice and to apply political science knowledge and skills to actual problem-solving and community service. (PLO 6)	Be prepared to take a leading role in the development of their country

Warnings against Plagiarism and Cheating

Both plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and punished according to the “Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures of Nazarbayev University.” If you are unsure whether your actions constitute one or both of these practices, please talk to me about them. Under this Student Code, plagiarism “is intentionally or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own. It includes submitting an assignment purporting to be the student’s original work that has wholly or in part been created by another person or AI-generating software. It also includes presenting another person’s work, ideas, representations, or words without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources. Plagiarism occurs when a person:

- Directly copies one or more sentences of another person’s written work without proper citation. If another writer’s words are used, you must place quotation marks around the quoted material and include a footnote or other indication of the source of the quotation. This includes cut and paste from the internet or other electronic sources;

- Changes words but copies the sentence structure of a source without giving credit to the original source, or closely paraphrases one or more paragraphs without acknowledgment of the source of the ideas, or uses graphs, figures, drawings, charts or other visual/audio materials without acknowledging the source or the permission of the author;
- Submits false or altered information in any academic exercise. This may include making up data for an experiment, altering data, citing nonexistent articles, contriving sources, etc.;
- Turns in all or part of an assignment done by another student or AI software and claims it as their own;
- Uses a paper writing service, has another student write a paper, or uses a foreign language translation and submits it as their own original work.

Cheating harms the very fiber of the University community. Honest students are put at a disadvantage due to the unfairness of the act and the potential that the grading structure of the class may be altered to their disadvantage. A student who cheats does not receive a real education, robbing themselves of the experience of how to learn. This is the focus of any university education. Cheating also damages the reputation of the University as well as the fabric of society. Finally, cheating damages the ethics of the individual, teaching them a wrong approach to life that will not be sustainable in their future careers. Cheating occurs when a person:

- Gains or provides unauthorized access to examination materials.
- Uses notes, mobile phone, books, calculator or other materials/devices during an examination without the permission of the instructor.
- Copies from another student's exam sheet with or without their permission or allows a student to copy from their exam sheet.
- Obstructs or interferes with another student's efforts in an academic exercise.
- States a dishonest reason in a request for an extension for an exam or paper.
- Continues to write even when time is up during an exam.
- Talks during an examination period.
- Asks another student take an examination or quiz.
- Any other action that gives a student an unfair advantage during an examination period or on any assignment being graded for credit."

Course Schedule with Readings – exact dates and readings will be changing depending on the progress

Readings are on the Moodle course webpage.

August 14. Introduction: Law and Uncertainty

- D'Amato, Indeterminacy

August 16. What Is Law? What is a Rule?

- Barkan, excerpts from Law and Society, pp. 21-30, and 56-60.
- Stone, excerpts from Policy Paradox, pp. 284-304.

August 18. Functions of Law

- Vago, pp. 19-22.
- Grana, The Purpose and Usefulness of Law

August 21. Functions of Law: Revolution

- Massell, Law as an Instrument of Revolutionary Change in a Traditional Milieu: The Case of Soviet Central Asia

August 23. Functions of Law: Intergenerational Conflict

- Turk, Law as a Weapon in Social Conflict
- Weinthal and Watters, Transnational Environmental Activism in Central Asia

August 25. Functions of Law: Property Rights

- Sanghera, Justice, Power, and Informal Settlements
- Hanson, Signaling & Selective Sanctions: The Law on State Property

August 28. Dysfunctions of Law

- Vago, pp. 22-23.
- Barkan, excerpts from Law and Society, pp. 4-7, 209-236.

September 1. How Does Law Develop: Theory?

- Weber, Max Weber on Law in Economy and Society, pp. 5-9
- North, Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance, pp. 121-30.

September 4. How Does Law Develop: Theory?

- Unger, Law in Modern Society, pp. 47-86.

September 6. Toward Responsive Law

- Nonet et al. Law and Society in Transition.

September 8. Modernization of Law

- In-class Film: Kazhdyi pervyi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=456psqM2FUw>

September 11. Western Legal Traditions: Civil Law

- Civil Law Primer

September 13. Western Legal Traditions: Soviet Law

- Feifer, Justice in Moscow, pp. 103-29.
- LaPierre, Making Hooliganism on a Mass Scale
- Clark, Crime and Punishment in Soviet Officialdom, 1965-90

September 15. Western Legal Traditions: Common Law

- Shively, Law and Courts
- Liptak, “Foreign Courts Wary of U.S. Punitive Damages”

September 18. Non-Western Legal Traditions: East Asian Law

- Wagatsuma and Rosett, “The Implication of Apology: Law and Culture in Japan and the United States,” pp. 462-69, 478-96.
- Lee, “The Law and Culture of the Apology in Korean Dispute Settlement,” 18-29, 36-37, 46-53.
- Rosenthal, “For a Fee, This Chinese Firm Will Beg Pardon for Anyone,” New York Times, January 3, 2001, p. A1
- “A Lesson from Mattel,” China Post, September 30, 2007.

September 20. Non-Western Legal Traditions: China

- In-class film: “The Story of Qiu Ju” Part 1

September 22. Non-Western Legal Traditions: China

- In-class film: “The Story of Qiu Ju” Part 2

September 25. Non-Western Legal Traditions: Islamic Law

- Feldman, “Why Shariah?” New York Times Magazine, March 16, 2008.
- Islamic Law and Common Law

September 27-29. Common Law, Islamic Law, Civil Law

- Polgreen, “Nigeria Turns from Harsher Side of Islamic Law”
- In-class video Islamic Law in Nigeria:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reYH32VU8fY>

October 9. What Is the Rule of Law?

- Fuller, Morality of Law.
- Tamanaha, A Concise Guide to the Rule of Law.
- Mattei & Nader, Plunder and the Rule of Law, pp. 10-34.
- Tamanaha, The Dark Side of Rule of Law.

October 11-13. How to Build the Rule of Law in Practice?

- Belton, Competing Definitions of the Rule of Law.
- Clarke, Order and Law in China

October 16. How to Transplant Law?

- Markovits, Exporting Law Reform – But Will It Travel?
- Newton, Transplantation and Transition: Legality and Legitimacy in the Kazakhstani Legislative Process

October 18. Dysfunctions of Legal Transplants

- Martin, Kazakh Oath-Taking in Colonial Courtrooms
- Kurkchian, The Illegitimacy of Law in Post-Soviet Societies

October 20. Constitutions and Power

- Stone, Powers

October 23. Constitutional Change

- Hale, Formal Constitutions in Informal Politics: Institutions and Democratization in Eurasia
- He, The Party's Leadership as a Living Constitution in China

October 25. Constitutional Courts in Central Asia

- Brinks and Blass, Rethinking Judicial Empowerment
- Trochev and Juzgenbayev, Instrumentalization of Constitutional Law in Central Asia

October 27. Rights and Liberties

- Stone, "Rights" from Policy Paradox, pp. 324-353.
- Podoprigora et al., Religious Freedom and Human Rights in Kazakhstan

October 30. Comparing American, European, and African Human Rights Systems

- Huneus, A., & Rask Madsen, M. (2018). Between universalism and regional law and politics: A comparative history of the American, European, and African human rights systems. *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, 16(1), 136-160.

November 1. Review for the Test**November 3. Test****November 6–8. Resolving Disputes – Basic Dynamics**

- Felstiner et al, "The Emergence and Transformation of Disputes," pp. 631-49.
- Hendley, Everyday Law in Russia, Chapter 3.

November 10. Resolving Disputes: Globalization

- Engel, "Globalization and the Decline of Legal Consciousness: Torts, Ghosts, and Karma in Thailand," 30 *Law & Social Inquiry* 469, 480-511 (2005)

November 13-15. Informal Mechanisms of Resolving Disputes

- Emerson, "Responding to Roommate Troubles: Reconsidering Informal Dyadic Control."
- Hendley, Everyday Law in Russia, Chapter 2

November 17. Resolving Disputes: Structural Disadvantages

- Galanter, "Why the Haves Come Out Ahead," *Law & Society Review*, 9:1 (1974), summary from *Law & Society: Readings on the Social Study of Law*, pp. 687-88.
- He and Su, "Do the "Haves" Come Out Ahead in Shanghai Courts?"

November 20-24. Student presentations