Description. We investigate differences in when, how, and why people and other actors (e.g., organizations) interact with law and legal institutions. Along the way, we consider the functions and dysfunctions of modern legal systems. Topics include: cross-national differences in the rights of parties to disputes; the role of lawyers as gatekeepers and facilitators; the filtering process by which events such as injuries become the basis for legal claims; access to and use of courts. Readings range from case law to empirical studies.

Requirements. This course has two. The first is active, engaged, reading-informed participation in discussion during our weekly seminar meetings. Some readings will be read by everyone, others will be read by only a subset of the class, who will give a brief synopsis to the rest of the class. In the last three weeks of the course, we will discuss topics of your choice, with readings selected by you and discussion led by groups of students. All readings are available through electronic reserve from the Coursework website or the web links provided in the syllabus. Participation across the quarter contributes 40% of your grade.

The second requirement is a research paper, due at the end of the scheduled final examination period for the course. This paper may be on any topic within the area of access to justice broadly understood. The final draft, a preliminary draft, and a paper proposal together contribute 60% of your grade.

Policies.

Late penalties. In a course of this kind, the only purpose of due dates is to make sure that everyone is up to speed and able to contribute effectively to discussion. Accordingly, late penalties apply to three assignments: the proposal for your paper, the first draft of your paper, and the readings you select for the day you will be part of the group to lead discussion. For each day (up to 24 hours) any of these is late, your class participation grade for the quarter is reduced by a transcript grade (e.g., an A becomes an A-, and B+ becomes a B, etc.). You start the quarter with 48-hours of extension time that you may use for any of the assignments or divide as you like across assignments, no questions asked or explanations required. Once your 48 hours are used up, no further extensions will be granted.

Physical or mental conditions that interfere with your ability to complete coursework as scheduled in a syllabus constitute circumstances in which you should consult the Disability Resource Center.

Accomodations, Auxiliary Aides and Services. If you know or are concerned that you may have a disability, contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (http://www.stanford.edu/group/DRC/, info@drc.stanford.edu). The DRC can provide a variety of resources to aid instruction, and will work with the instructor and the student to arrange suitable accommodation. If you require accommodation, it is your responsibility to contact the
DRC, who will keep the details of your circumstances in confidence and will work with you and your instructors to arrange suitable accommodation.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is available to help students who experience a wide variety of personal, academic and relationship concerns. Contact (650) 723-3785 (24 hours a day).

Contacting the instructor.
I hold drop-in office hours on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 - 4:00 pm in Room 224, Building 120. I am also available by appointment. The best way to contact me is always e-mail, at sandefur@stanford.edu, but you can also call my office phone at 724-6252.
Readings and Other Assignments
* All read
† Some read

Tuesday, March 29th: Introduction to the Course
*Airey v. Ireland (1979), European Union Court of Human Rights (in class)
*New Brunswick v. J.G. (1999), Supreme Court of Canada (in class)
*Lassiter v. North Carolina (1981), United States Supreme Court (in class)
*Nkuzi Development Development Association v. Legal Aid Board (2001), Land Claims Court of South Africa (in class)

*Palo Alto Daily News Police Blotter for Atherton, East Palo Alto, Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Redwood City (in class)

Tuesday, April 5th: What is Justice, Anyway?


*Miranda v. Arizona (1966), United States Supreme Court
http://www.tourolaw.edu/patch/Miranda/

Tuesday, April 12th: What Law Will and Won’t, Can and Can’t Do
http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0023-9216%282001%2935%3A1%3C165%3ATEAFOT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-W
**Tuesday, April 12th**: What Law Will and Won’t, Can and Can’t Do (cont’d)


**Tuesday, April 19th**: Mobilizing the Law


Tuesday, April 19th: Mobilizing the Law (cont’d)


April 26th: Predicting Mobilization


May 3rd: Institutions of Criminal Law


May 10th: Social, Political, and Economic Contexts of Access to Justice Reforms


*Sandefur, Rebecca L. 2005. “Lawyers’ Pro Bono Service and American-Style Civil Legal Assistance.” (Coursework)

Tuesday, May 17th: Student-led topics and discussion

Friday, May 20th, 5 p.m.: First Draft of Research Paper Due
(Hard copy, Sandefur’s mailbox in the Sociology Department office)
The more of the paper you give me to read at this point, the more I can help you. However, here is the bare minimum: In at least 10 double-spaced pages, lay out your research question and define any central concepts or introduce theory, describe what you using as data to answer your research question and how you are using the data, describe at least preliminary findings.
Tuesday, May 24th: Student-led topics and discussion

Tuesday, May 31st: Student-led topics and discussion.

Tuesday, June 7th, 6:30 pm: Research paper due.