

Review of the volume “*Sociologie juridică. Caiet de seminar*” [*Sociology of Law. Seminar Workbook*], by Loredana Terec-Vlad, Pro Universitaria Publishing House, 2025

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Abstract

Sociology of Law. Seminar Workbook by Loredana Terec-Vlad is a didactic tool designed for law students, effectively combining sociology with legal analysis. The work explores the theoretical foundations of law as a social phenomenon, the functions of legal institutions, the relationship between norms and context, and the moral and epistemological challenges of legal practice. From a legal perspective, the workbook underscores the need to understand the social context for effective interpretation of the law and contributes to fostering critical thinking among future legal professionals.

Keywords: *Sociology of Law; law and society; normative legitimacy; institutional adaptation; legal education; social epistemology.*

The work *Sociology of Law. Seminar Workbook*, by Assistant Professor Loredana Terec-Vlad, provides an interdisciplinary educational framework focused on how legal norms evolve in response to social realities. In the context of a legal system under the pressure of rapid changes (globalization, digitalization, pandemics), an interdisciplinary approach is crucial for understanding how law operates in practice and for ensuring consistent application of the principles of the rule of law.

Loredana Terec-Vlad starts from the premise that legal norms are not autonomous entities, but social products deeply influenced by tradition, culture, and institutions. Elements of social epistemology (Unit S1) and social constructionism (Unit S2) equip students with theoretical tools for understanding law as a negotiated phenomenon.

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From a legal standpoint, this approach enables the evaluation of the legitimacy of norms, which is essential for their effective and responsible application.

The units dedicated to deviance (S4) and social acceptability (S10) examine the role of norms in regulating behavior and maintaining social cohesion. By integrating the theories of Foucault and Goffman (Units S11–S12), the author opens a critical perspective on the relationship between authority and individuals, shaping a reflexive legal framework oriented toward institutional reform.

Units S13 and S14 extend legal inquiry into key areas: electoral law and public health. For example, the analysis of bioethical dilemmas and access to services provides students with an essential perspective for legislative reasoning and for equitable interpretation of the law in pluralistic societies.

A distinctive element of the workbook lies in its practical activities (debates, case studies, group exercises), present in each seminar. These not only convey theoretical concepts but also foster the development of legal decision-making skills, the ability to assess the social context, and the formulation of tailored solutions - all essential for the professional training of future jurists.

The author understands law as a social product, moving away from a formalist vision and building a realistic, critical educational model. The modular structure, with practical activities, makes the workbook a valuable pedagogical tool for cross-disciplinary professional training. The strong link between sociology and law provides a solid basis for fair and context-adapted legal reasoning.

Relevance and practical utility

- **For students** – *Sociology of Law. Seminar Workbook* is a complex training tool that goes beyond the mere delivery of theoretical information. Through the proposed activities, students are placed in situations where they must analyze real or hypothetical cases, assess the impact of norms on diverse social groups, and link theory to concrete legal practices. This type of training contributes to developing critical thinking, understanding the mechanisms through which social context shapes the application of law, and cultivating professional responsibility. Moreover, the interdisciplinary approach equips future jurists with essential cross-cutting competencies in fields such as human rights, public administration, or international law.
- **For academics** – The work is designed to support the delivery of interactive seminars, maintaining a careful balance between theory

and applicability. Teachers can use the material both as a support for explaining fundamental concepts and as a basis for debates, mock trials, or critical analysis of public policies. The modular structure allows content adaptation to the group's level of preparation, while practical activities facilitate active student engagement. In this way, the workbook contributes to modernizing the teaching process, orienting it toward building competencies that can be applied immediately in practice.

- **For legal practitioners** – The work offers a strong argument in favor of using sociological research in the legislative process and in the practical interpretation of norms. In a context where the efficiency and legitimacy of laws increasingly depend on their adaptability to social reality, integrating empirical analysis becomes an indispensable tool. Through the proposed examples and models, the workbook demonstrates how data from sociological studies can underpin better-calibrated legal decisions, help identify legislative gaps, and support the drafting of norms that meet the real needs of society. This promotes participatory legislation, based on dialogue between institutions and citizens, thereby enhancing public trust in the justice system and in the functioning of the rule of law.

Conclusion

Sociology of Law. Seminar Workbook by Loredana Terec-Vlad is an outstanding didactic tool, tailored to the needs of training a generation of jurists aware of social reality. Through clarity, practical interaction, and rigorous thematic structure, the work provides students and practitioners with a solid framework for critical reflection and contextual legal interpretation. I recommend this book to anyone interested in the social dimension of law and in building a coherent legislative framework adapted to the times.

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