What is law? What are rules? What are norms?

How do laws/rules/norms relate to each other?

Does society follow/respect laws, rules, and norms equally?

Who enforces laws/rules/norms?

Do particular kinds of societies have more laws than rules or norms than laws or rules than norms, etc..?

How might understanding how norms work influence the creation and enforcement of rules or norms?

What role do norms play in shaping how law is used by individuals?

What is the role of law in society? How do we use law to create unity in a community? How does law reinforce or challenge power relations?

Consider each theorist-what is their unique contribution to our understanding of law?

Which theorists best explains a particular problem? For example, which theorist best explains how punitive our punishments are for sex offenders?

Think also of examples we didn’t discuss in class. Which theorist best explains the current indictment of some of President Trump’s campaign staff? Or, which theorist best explains the presence of a security guard on the Night Owl bus? Or, which theorist best explains the huge UCSC bureaucracy that we all have to navigate?

What are the boundaries of private property? Can societies own property? What influence do those with large amounts of private property have on the law?

Why does society protect private property? Are there exceptions to that protection? Does the protection of private property vary by society/culture?

What makes something a person’s property?

How do communal interests in natural resources create incentives to effectively use those resources?

Does law represent the interests of those who monopolize property in society? If yes, how? If no, what interests does law represent instead?

Why do we obey law? What are the strengths and weaknesses of these theories of compliance?

What control is exercised on citizens by law and punishment? Why do different countries punish the same crime so differently? How does the criminal justice system entrench and increase racial inequality in the United States?

What is the relationship between why we obey law and the punishment for disobeying law?

How can everyday people resist authority and maintain their own morality?

What happens if a criminal justice system loses its legitimacy? How will that impact whether people will obey the law?

What are some theories as to why the US punishes crimes so severely compared to other wealthy countries?

Why are we decriminalizing drug offenses now?