

Course Outline

COURSE:	FYSM 1502Q - Topics in Legal Studies: Law & Literature
TERM:	Fall /Winter 2009-10
CLASS:	Day & Time: Monday and Wednesday 10:05-11:25 Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Ummni Khan
CONTACT:	Office: D587 Loeb Building Office Hrs: Usually Wednesdays 11:35-1:25 or by appointment Telephone: 613-520-2600 ext. 1547 Email: <u>Send email through WEB CT</u> through the course page. Use my Carleton email if you want to get in touch after the course is over: <u>ummni_khan@carleton.ca</u> I try to respond to emails within two business days.

"Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary Letters of Accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs with me in order to make the necessary arrangements as early in the term as possible, but no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first test requiring accommodations. For further information, please see: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom_policy.html . If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 16, 2009 for December examinations** and **March 12, 2010 for April examinations**.

For Religious and Pregnancy accommodations, please contact Equity Services, x. 5622 or their website: www.carleton.ca/equity

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course considers law in the context of narrative. In particular, we will look at the depiction of law in literature (broadly defined), and ways that official legal texts can be construed as a kind of storytelling.

Law features prominently in many different types of narratives. We will analyze the construction of law in various genres including the novel, drama, poetry, pulp fiction, film and television. We will also consider law as literature. For example, we could ask: how do judges create "protagonists" and "antagonists" in their judgments in order to justify their final disposition? Our analysis of these texts will be informed by literary and legal theory.

Specific objectives for the course include:

- Substantive knowledge of the assigned law and literature texts
- Understanding how to approach these texts with a critical lens *and* an open mind
- Developing the ability to write short reflective analytical pieces
- Fostering the ability *and* the confidence to think out loud (critically and thoughtfully)
- Learning how to work cooperatively in groups
- Becoming familiar with the services of Carleton (for example, the Library, the Career Development and Co-operative Education office, the Student Academic Success Centre)

REQUIRED TEXTS**First term:**

Lullabies for Little Criminals by Heather O'Neill. \$17.50 (9780060875077)

Maus I and Maus II by Art Spiegelman. 16.95 (9780394747231) and 16.95 (9780679729778)

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde by Moises Kaufman. 17.00 (9780375702327)

These books are available at Octopus Books (116 Third Ave; (613) 233-2589; www.octopusbooks.ca)
(Please note that I order from Octopus Books, in part, to introduce you to the literary culture of Ottawa).

Second term (Books not yet ordered. I encourage students to obtain used copies of the Kinsella and Grisham novels and the Welch novel if possible. Checkout www.abebooks.ca):

Sophie Kinsella, *The Undomestic Goddess*

John Grisham, *The Partner*

James Welch, *The Indian Lawyer*

Movies:

The film *Adam's Rib* and *The Trial* will be on reserve at the library for you to view at the library. If there is interest, I will try to arrange a group viewing, either on or off campus.

Television:

We will watch the *Star Trek* episode in class.

The rest of the texts for will be either handed out or put in a Course-book.

EVALUATION

(All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade)

FALL TERM:

Participation: 10%

- In Class Writing Assignments: 15% (September 28, November 4, November 23, December 7, 2009)
- Library Assignment: 5% (DUE October 19, 2009)
- Reading Journal Fall Term: 20% (DUE December 7, 2009)

WINTER TERM:

Participation: 10%

- In Class Writing Assignments: 15% (January 18, February 1, February 22, March 21, 2010)
- Library Assignment: 5% (DUE March 29, 2009)
- Reading Journal Winter Term: 20% (DUE March 31, 2009)

Participation

You are expected to come to class having done the readings carefully. I sometimes call on people directly to canvass their opinion on and their analysis of the texts. In addition, you will be assigned into a group. At the beginning of some classes, one or more groups will present on the portion of the text we will be discussing. More information on these presentations will be provided during class.

Your participation mark is also based on your involvement with the Study Skills Incentive Program. 3% of your final mark (1.5% per term) will be based on attending 3 support service workshops per term (6 in total). These 20 minute workshops are activity based and foster skills that are invaluable for success at the university level. They take place at the Learning Support Services in room 402 MacOdrum Library and are scheduled outside of class time.

Reading Journal

After most classes, I will have a particular question or set of questions that you must answer in written form in an on-going journal. During the following class, I might ask what you have written. Please bring a print out of your journal to every class. At the end of each term, you must hand in your reading journal. Each term's journal should range from 10-15 pages.

You are welcome to add additional thoughts to the journal and to be creative.

Library Assignments

In the first term, two classes will be devoted to touring the library and learning how to find relevant material. Instructions for a short assignment that tests what you have learned will be provided in class.

In the second term, one class will be devoted to learning how to find legal materials. Instructions for a short assignment that tests what you have learned will be provided in class.

In Class Writing Assignments:

In each term, there will be 4 classes where you must complete a short writing assignment in class. The writing assignments will test your understanding of the content as well as your ability to analyze the text(s). You will be allowed to consult your texts and your notes. Each assignment is worth 5%. If you attend all 4 of these classes per term, I will drop your lowest mark for the assignments to have your final grade for this portion of your evaluation be out of 15%. There will be no makeup assignments. If you happen to miss one of these classes for whatever reason, then you will be graded on your written assignments composed in the other three classes in that term.

In Class Etiquette:

While participation is encouraged, active and respectful listening is equally important. As this is a seminar that centres around discussion, please turn off all cell phones and, barring exceptional circumstances, do not bring your laptop to write notes.

GRADING for in class writing assignments and the Reading Journal:

Evaluation will be guided by the following criteria:

- Structure of the assignment (for example, having a clear and logical flow)
- Quality of the writing (for example, providing an original and insightful analysis)
- Sophistication (for example, avoiding 'common sense' and stereotypes, considering alternative points of view, anticipating counter perspectives);
 - For the reading journal, submit a hard copy AND an electronic copy through Web CT;
 - Late assignments are penalized half a letter grade per day, including weekends (except if there are exceptional circumstances that are supported with third party documentation, for example, a doctor's note);
 - Any assignment which is not directly handed to me should be placed in the Law drop box (C473 Loeb) no later than 4 p.m. on the due date or the above penalty will be enforced;
 - More information on grading and evaluations will be provided in class and/or in a WebCt posting.

SCHEDULE - FIRST TERM

- WEEK 1:** **Sep 14:** Topic: Introduction to the seminar.
- Discussion in Class: Song Lyrics: “The Hurricane” (hand out and posted on WebCT) by Bob Dylan
- Read for next class (on WebCT and will be given as a hand out): Benjamin Franklin “Poor Richard’s Opinion”, and Kathleen O’Ferrall Friedman, “History and Development of Law and Literature” from the *Maryland Bar Journal* (2008)
- Sep 16:** Topic: Law in Song, Law in Poetry
- Discussion in Class: Continue discussion of “The Hurricane” and the story of Rubin Carter, and Benjamin Franklin’s “Poor Richard’s Opinion”. Discuss Friedman article.
- Begin Reading: *Lullabies for Little Criminals* (pages 1-140).
- WEEK 2:** **Sep 21:** Topic and discussion: *Lullabies for Little Criminals* (pages 1-140).
- Sep 23:** Topic and discussion: *Lullabies for Little Criminals* (pages 1-140).
- Continue Reading: *Lullabies for Little Criminals* (pages 1-286).
- WEEK 3:** **Sep 28:** **In class writing exercise assignment** on *Lullabies for Little Criminals* (pages 1-286).
- Sep 30:** Topic and discussion: *Lullabies for Little Criminals* (pages 1-286).
- Finish Reading: *Lullabies for Little Criminals* (pages 286-330).
- WEEK 4:** **Oct 5:** Topic and discussion: *Lullabies for Little Criminals* (the whole novel).
- Oct 7:** **LIBRARY WORKSHOP (meet in the library).**
- WEEK 5:** **[Oct 12:** **University Closed]**
- Oct 14:** **LIBRARY WORKSHOP (meet in the library).**
- WEEK 6:** **Oct 19:** Reading in Class and Discussion of: Susan Glaspell: *Trifles*.
- Library Assignment Due**
- Read for next class (October 28): Susan Glaspell, “A Jury of Her Peers”; Marina Angel, “Susan Glaspell’s *Trifles* and ‘A Jury of Her Peers’: Woman Abuse in a Literary and Legal Context”, and Sara D. Schotland, “When Ethical Principles and Feminist Jurisprudence Collide: An Unorthodox Reading of ‘A Jury of Her Peers’” (available on-line).
- Oct 21:** **CLASS CANCELLED. Sign up to meet one-on-one with professor to discuss in-class writing assignment, library assignment, on-going progress on reading journal, and anything else on your mind.**
- WEEK 7:** **Oct 26:** **CLASS CANCELLED. Sign up to meet one-on-one with professor to discuss in-class writing assignment, library assignment, on-going progress on reading journal, and anything else on your mind.**
- Oct 28:** Topic and discussion: “A Jury of Her Peers”; Marina Angel, “Susan Glaspell’s *Trifles* and ‘A Jury of Her Peers’: Woman Abuse in a Literary and Legal Context”, and Sara D. Schotland, “When Ethical Principles and Feminist Jurisprudence Collide: An Unorthodox Reading of ‘A Jury of Her Peers’”.
- Watch for next class: *Adam’s Rib*.

- WEEK 8:** **Nov 2:** Topic and discussion: *Adam's Rib* in relation to Glaspell's work and commentary.
- Nov 4:** **In class writing assignment** on Glaspell "Trifles" and "A Jury of Her Peers", Marina Angel, "Susan Glaspell's *Trifles* and *A Jury of Her Peers*: Woman Abuse in a Literary and Legal Context", and *Adam's Rib*.

Read for next week: Art Spiegelman, *Maus I: My Father Bleeds History*.

- WEEK 9:** **Nov 9:** Topic and discussion: *Maus I: My Father Bleeds History* (the full novel).

- Nov 11:** Topic and discussion: *Maus I: My Father Bleeds History* (the full novel).

Read for next week: Art Spiegelman, *Maus II: And Here My Troubles Began*.

- WEEK 10:** **Nov 16:** Topic and discussion: *Maus II: And Here My Troubles Began* (the full novel).

- Nov 18:** Topic and discussion: *Maus II: And Here My Troubles Began* (the full novel).

Read for next week: Excerpt from *Considering Maus* (handout and posted on WebCT).

- WEEK 11:** **Nov 23:** **In class writing assignment:** *Maus I*, *Maus II*, and excerpt from *Considering Maus*.

Read for next class: *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*.

- Nov 25:** Topic and discussion: *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*

- WEEK 12:** **Nov 30:** Topic and discussion: *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*.

- Dec 2:** **Tour of Career Services**

No new reading for next week, but begin reading *The Undomestic Goddess* for next semester.

- WEEK 13:** **Dec 7:** **In class writing assignment** on *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*.

READING JOURNAL DUE IN CLASS

HOMEWORK OVER BREAK: Finish reading *The Undomestic Goddess* and read Grisham's "*The Partner*".

SCHEDULE - SECOND TERM

- WEEK 14:** **Jan 4:** Topic and Discussion: Sophie Kinsella, *The Undomestic Goddess* (the whole novel).

- Jan 6:** Topic and Discussion: Kinsella, *The Undomestic Goddess*, and Trevor CW Farrow, "Law a profession, not a Life", *Advocates Quarterly* (November 2002).

- WEEK 15:** **Jan 11:** Topic and Discussion: Kinsella, *The Undomestic Goddess*, Kerstin Fest, "Angels in the House or Girl Power: Working Women in Nineteenth-Century Novels and Contemporary Chick Lit", *Women's Studies*, 38:1 (2009) pages 43-62, and Farrow, "Law a profession, not a Life".

- Jan 13:** In-class Workshop by the Student Academic Success Centre.

Topic and Discussion: Kinsella, *The Undomestic Goddess*, Kerstin Fest, "Angels in the House or Girl Power: Working Women in Nineteenth-Century Novels and Contemporary Chick Lit", *Women's Studies*, 38:1 (2009) pages 43-62, and Farrow, "Law a profession, not a Life".

- WEEK 16:** **Jan 18:** **In class writing exercise** on Kinsella, *The Undomestic Goddess*, Kerstin Fest, “Angels in the House or Girl Power: Working Women in Nineteenth-Century Novels and Contemporary Chick Lit”, *Women's Studies*, 38:1 (2009) pages 43-62, and Farrow, “Law a profession, not a Life”.
- Jan 20:** Topic and discussion: John Grisham: *The Partner*
- WEEK 17:** **Jan 25:** Topic and discussion: John Grisham: *The Partner*
- Jan 27:** Topic and discussion: John Grisham: *The Partner*, and Peter Robson, “Images of Law in the Fiction of John Grisham” in *Tall Stories: Reading Law and Literature*.
- WEEK 18:** **Feb 1:** **In Class Writing Exercise** on Grisham *The Partner* and Peter Robson, “Images of Law in the Fiction of John Grisham” in *Tall Stories: Reading Law and Literature*.
- Read for next class: *The Indian Lawyer*.
- Feb 3:** Topic and discussion: *The Indian Lawyer*
- WEEK 19:** **Feb 8:** Topic and discussion: *The Indian Lawyer*
- Feb 10:** Topic and discussion: *The Indian Lawyer* and Ron McFarland, “Going One on One: *The Indian Lawyer* as Novel of Intrigue” from *Understanding James Welch*.
- READING WEEK (Feb 15- Feb 19)**
- WEEK 20:** **Feb 22:** Topic and discussion: *The Indian Lawyer* and Mary Jane Lupton, “Chapter 6: The Indian Lawyer” from *James Welch: A Critical Companion*.
- Feb 24:** **In class writing assignment** on *The Indian Lawyer*, McFarland, “Going One on One”, and Mary Jane Lupton, “Chapter 6: The Indian Lawyer”.
- Watch for next week: Orsen Welles’ *The Trial*.
- WEEK 21:** **Mar 1:** Topic and discussion: Orsen Welles’ *The Trial*.
- Mar 3:** Topic and discussion: Orsen Welles’ *The Trial*
- WEEK 22:** **Mar 8:** Topic and discussion: Select short stories by Franz Kafka.
- Mar 10:** Topic and discussion: Select short stories by Franz Kafka.
- WEEK 23:** **Mar 15:** **In class writing exercise** on Well’s *The Trial* and Kafka short stories.
- Mar 17:** **Library Instruction on Finding Legal texts (Meet in the Library)**
- WEEK 24:** **Mar 22:** Topic and discussion: Case study (more information provided next term)
- Mar 24:** Topic and discussion: Case study.
- WEEK 25:** **Mar 29:** Topic and discussion: Star Trek: The Next Generation: *Measure of a Man* (science fiction and the meaning of life).
- Library Assignment due on the concept of the Kafkaesque in law.**
- Mar 31:** Topic and discussion: Star Trek: The Next Generation: *Measure of a Man* (science fiction and the meaning of life continued), and wrap-up.

READING JOURNAL DUE IN CLASS