

Fall/Winter 2019-2020

AP/EN 1101 6.0A (Y)

Literature and Law

Course Director:

Jordana Greenblatt

Delivery Format:

Lecture

Time:

Lecture: Thursdays 12:30-2:30pm

Tutorials: Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm; 3:30-4:30pm

Description:

Literature has a long-standing interest in the law, and it is also affected by it through the legal mechanisms surrounding copyright, censorship, obscenity, etc. The literature we will study deals with the issue of justice by exploring conflicts between legal regimes (eg. between colonized and colonizer; secular and divine law; the moral and the legal; the magnitude of a crime and its punishment). They investigate the effects of social status and histories (eg. class, race, and gender) on crime and on legal outcomes. We will read literature that envisions the possibility of its own destruction through state-enforced censorship. We will read about crimes ranging from murder to domestic violence to petty mischief and about concerns ranging from capital punishment to sexual regulation to the contractual status of marriage. Traversing literary genres, legal issues will appear as the subject matter of tragedy, realist fiction, Shakespearean comedy, dystopian science fiction, the detective novel, and the Canadian poet's novel, among other forms. While our primary focus will be literary, we will also investigate the law's effect on literature through two key legal cases concerning Canadian obscenity legislation and legal precedent. Introducing students to a variety of legal issues and debates as represented in literature, criticism, and case law, this course investigates not only how literature presents the law, but how law affects literature.

Category:

N/A

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

Informed tutorial participation	10%
In-Class Essay	20%
Comparative Essay, 5 pp	20%
Research Essay, 7 pp	25%
Final Exam	25%

Reading List:Prose:

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart* .
Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451* .
Califia, Patrick. "The Hustler."
Clarke, George Elliott. *George and Rue*.
Glaspell, Susan. "A Jury of Her Peers." (online)
Melville, Herman. *Billy Budd, Sailor* .
Sayers, Dorothy. *Gaudy Night* .
Walton, Jo. *The Just City*.

Plays:

Kushner, Tony. *Angels in America*.
Parks, Suzan-Lori. *Venus* .
Shakespeare, William. *Measure for Measure* .
Sophocles, *Antigone* .

Court Cases (online):

Little Sister's Book and Art Emporium v. Canada (2000)
Regina v. Butler (1992)

Documentary (In-class screening):

Weissman, Aerlyn, dir. *Little Sister's vs Big Brother*

In addition, various critical readings are required, some of which are available in the Course Kit and some through the library's ejournal collection.

Open To:

Open Spaces