***Law and Popular Culture***

***Syllabus – Fall 2020***

***Prof. Meyer***

***Prof. Philip Meyer***

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***Teaching assistant: Lena Capps –*** [***lenacapps@vermontlaw.edu***](mailto:lenacapps@vermontlaw.edu)

***Texts:***

1. ***Movies: Listed in Syllabus***
2. ***Law and Popular Culture: Text, Notes and Questions (Second Edition) (2012)***

***Each week participants will watch one movie and discuss one chapter of the text. After the initial Introductory organizational session, one or two seminar participants will be assigned to prepare and lead discussions of the assigned movies and corresponding chapters of the assigned text. The instructor will also contribute and lead discussions incorporating perspectives on storytelling practice in law and popular culture.***

***In addition to leading classes and participating in classes, all students will write either an essay or a research paper based upon materials in the course (or upon other law and popular culture topics). I anticipate that the papers will be app. 10-15 pages written on topics of interest to seminar participants. Grades will be based upon classroom participation and the final paper.***

***This course will be taught as a “virtual” seminar on a “ZOOM” platform. I will send a “link” in a ZOOM invitation in the week before the start of classes. Please download the free application at ZOOM.US prior to our first class. If you do not receive an invitation please contact Prof. Meyer (***[***pmeyer@vermontlaw.edu***](mailto:pmeyer@vermontlaw.edu) ***) and Lena Capps (***[***lenacapps@vermontlaw.edu***](mailto:lenacapps@vermontlaw.edu) ***).***

***Course objectives:***

1. ***Provide an opportunity to view and discuss great movies about legal subjects.***
2. ***Analyze and explore relationships between popular culture and law practice.***
3. ***Develop legal storytelling skills important in law practice and legal argumentation.***

***I look forward to working with you this semester.***

***Assignments:***

***Part I: Introduction***

***Week #1 – Viewing: “Anatomy of a Murder” (1959)***

***Reading: Studying Law and Popular Culture (Chapter 1 of Casebook), pp. 3-29***

***Part II: Legal Actors & Institutions***

***Week #2 – Viewing: “The Paper Chase” (1973)***

***Reading: Law Students (Chapter 2), pp. 33-69***

***Week #3 – Viewing: “The Verdict” (1982)***

***Reading: Lawyers (Chapter 3), pp. 71-117***

***Week #4 – Viewing: “Just Mercy” (2019)***

***Reading: Clients (Chapter 4), pp. 119-160***

***Week #5 – Viewing: “Witness for the Prosecution” (1957)***

***Reading: Witnesses (Chapter 5), pp. 161-193***

***Week #6 – Viewing: “Judgment at Nuremberg” (1961)***

***Reading: Judges (Chapter 6), pp. 195-237***

***Week #7 – Viewing: “12 Angry Men” (1957)***

***Reading: Juries (Chapter 7), pp. 239-294***

***Week #8 – Viewing: “I Want to Live!” (1958)***

***Reading: Punishment (Chapter 8), pp. 295-329***

***Part III: Legal Subject Areas:***

***Week #9 – Viewing: “A Civil Action”***

***Reading: Tort Law (Chapter 9), pp. 333-363***

***Week #10 – Viewing: “Marshall” (2017)***

***Reading: Criminal Law (Chapter 10), pp. 365-405***

***Week #11 – Viewing: “RBG” (2018)***

***Reading: Constitutional Law (Chapter 11), pp. 407-458***

***Week #12 – Viewing: “Kramer v. Kramer” (1979)***

***Reading: Family Law (Chapter 12), pp. 439-457***

***Week #13 – Viewing: “Too Big To Fail” (2011)***

***Reading: Business Law (Chapter 13), pp. 459-498***

***Week #14 – Viewing: “In the Name of the Father” (1993)***

***Reading: International Law (Chapter 14), pp. 499-525***