09A: Literature and Law Prof. Patnaik

Fall 2015 Office: 304 LPAC

Time: TTh Office hours: Tuesdays 10:30-12:30 Location: Trotter 315 spatnai1@swarthmore.edu

In this course we will explore the forms law and literature take as they work through similar

concerns, determining how social systems should function and puzzling over the moments when

they don’t. When does fiction appropriate the law’s penchant for articulating rights and defining

relationships? And when does the legal imagination draw from literature? We will read works of

tragedy, detection, confession and evasion as we sort through these questions, supplementing our

conversation with critical legal theory, trauma studies, and case law.

Book List:Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem;* Anne Carson, *Antigonick*; Wilkie Collins, *The Woman in White*; Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Sign of the Four*; Franz Kafka, *The Trial*; Sophocles, *Antigone;* selected readings on Moodle

**Readings:**

Books are available at the Swarthmore bookstore and in McCabe. We are going to be working closely with our texts throughout the semester, so if you do decide to purchase books online, **make sure to get the edition carried in the bookstore.** The best way to do this is to search for books by IBSN number (the 10- or 13-digit code on the back of the book).

All other class readings are on Moodle. Bring a paper copy of these readings to class.

\*The Dean of Students has funds to assist students whose financial aid packages do not cover books. Contact Dean Henry or come talk to me if you have any questions about how to acquire required course materials.

**Writing:**

* A 2-3 page paper developing a close reading of a small passage
* A 5-6 page argumentative essay
* An 8-10 page argumentative essay

**Course Policies:**

**How to contact me:**

The best way to communicate with me is always in person, either before or after class or in office hours. While I encourage you to email me if you have a simple question or notification, please see me in person if you wish to discuss reading or writing assignments. I will respond to your emails within 24 hours during the school week. If you write to me over the weekend, please don’t expect a response until Monday.

**Papers:**

A stapled hard copy and an e-version of your paper must be turned in by the *beginning of class* on the announced due date. All out-of-class work must be typed and must follow MLA formatting guidelines, including:

* Double-spaced text
* 1” margins
* Times New Roman or Garamond 12-pt font
* Page headers with your last name and page number (**Patnaik 3**)
* Paper stapled in the upper left-hand corner

A summary of MLA guidelines is available at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>. If you have any additional questions about formatting or proper citation practices, we can discuss them during office hours.

Make sure to familiarize yourself with Swarthmore’s academic honesty policy, available here:

The English department’s website has extensive resources detailing best practices for citing and paraphrasing texts here: www.swarthmore.edu%2Fenglish-literature%2Fhow-to-**cite**-sources When in doubt, cite!

The English Department main office (LPAC 202) has a library of reference books and style guides on writing, research, and argumentation. If you’re stuck (or you would just like to expand your skill set), stop in to check them out.

**Late Papers:**

Any paper not turned in at the beginning of class on the announced due date will drop one full letter grade (e.g., B🡪C). If you don’t turn your paper in on time, make sure to schedule time with me to discuss a new deadline immediately. Work turned in after the deadline we’ve agreed upon will drop another full letter grade (e.g., C🡪D).

**If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment, be sure to seek clarification from me beforehand.**

**Disability Accommodations:**

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Leslie Hempling in the Office of Student Disability Services (Parrish 113) or email [lhempli1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:lhempli1@swarthmore.edu" \t "_blank) to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs. As appropriate, she will issue students with documented disabilities a formal Accommodations Letter. Since accommodations require early planning and are not retroactive, please contact her as soon as possible. For details about the accommodations process, [visit the Student Disability Service Website](http://www.swarthmore.edu/academic-advising-support/welcome-to-student-disability-service" \t "_blank) at [http://www.swarthmore.edu/academic-advising-support/welcome-to-student-disability-service](http://www.swarthmore.edu/academic-advising-support/welcome-to-student-disability-service" \t "_blank).  You are also welcome to contact me privately to discuss your academic needs. However, all disability-related accommodations must be arranged through the Office of Student Disability Services.

**Grade breakdown:**

Papers: 50%

Small writing and group work: 15%

Quizzes and in-class writing: 10%

Peer review: 5%

Participation: 20%

Note that on Sunday, September 27th we will be going to New York to see *Antigone* at the BAM. This is a required event; you should plan on being away from the college from 9am-5pm.

Week 1:

9/1: Introduction

Assignment: Close reading 6 pages of text. Scan and upload to Moodle by 8 pm Wednesday.

9/3: Sophocles, *Antigone;* from Hart, *The Concept of Law*

Assignment: First essay (2-3 pages)

Week 2:

9/8: Carson, *Antigonick*

Due: First essay (2-3 pages)

Assignment: Visual and aural annotations (Moodle)

9/10: no class – individual writing conferences

Due: Visual and aural annotations (Moodle)

Week 3:

9/15: *Antigonick*; *The Woman in White*

Writing topic: common writing problems

9/17: Collins, *The Woman in White*

Assignment: tracing patterns

Week 4:

9/22: *The Woman in White*

Writing topic: formulating writing questions

Assignment: writing questions

9/24: no class – theater visit!

Writing topic: formulating thesis statements

Due: writing questions

Assignment: thesis questions and close reading

9/27: *Antigone* at BAM Harvey Theater, 3 pm

651 Fulton St., Brooklyn, NY

http://www.bam.org/visit#/BAM-Harvey-Theater/BAM-Harvey-Theater/Antigone

Week 5:

9/29: *The Woman in White;* Married Women’s Property Act, 1870 and 1884

Due: thesis question and close reading

10/1: *The Woman in White*

Due: tracing patterns

Assignment: Essay #2 rough draft

Week 6:

10/6: Conan Doyle, *The Sign of the Four*, “The Speckled Band”

Due: Three copies of rough draft (5-6 pages)

Assignment: Peer review

10/8: Conan Doyle, cont./Peer Review

Writing topic: common writing problems/strategies for revision

Assignment: Essay #2 final draft

**Fall Break**

Week 7:

10/20: Kafka, *The Trial*

Due: Essay #2

Assignment: group writing and response #1

10/22: *The Trial*

Due: group writing and response #1

Assignment: group writing and response #2

Week 8:

10/27: *The Trial/* Philip, *Zong!*

Due: group writing and response #2

10/29: *Zong!*

10/30: M. NourbSe Philip lecture, Swarthmore, tentatively scheduled for 1 pm

Week 9:

11/3: library visit; Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Nuremberg charter; Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

11/5: Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

Assignment: central questions for final essay and three annotations

Week 10:

11/10: *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

11/12: *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

Due: Central questions/thesis statement for final essay and three annotations

Assignment: close reading for final essay and two annotations

Week 11:

11/17: *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

Due: close reading and two annotations

11/19: case law (topic to be selected by the class)

Assignment: first 5 pages of final essay

Week 12:

11/24: case law, cont.

Due: First 5 pages of final essay

**Thanksgiving Break**

Week 13:

12/1: Agamben, from *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*; from *Poems from Guantánamo*

Assignment: Draft of final paper

12/3: from *Poems from Guantánamo*

Due: Three copies of first draft (8-10 pgs)

Assignment: Peer review

Week 14:

12/8: Peer review of final paper

Final Paper due: 12/15