

## AP/EN 1101 6.0A: Literature and Law F/W 2018-2019

<b>Lecture:</b>	Th 12:30-2:30	CLH J
<b>Tutorials:</b>	T1: Th 2:30-3:30	HNE 031
	T2: Th 3:30-4:30	ATK 024
	T3: Th 2:30-3:30	ATK 024

**Course Director:** Dr. Jordana Greenblatt  
**Office:** ATK 730  
**Office Hour:** (F term, will change for W term) W 12:00-1:00pm drop-in;  
Th 3:30-4:30pm by appointment only  
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**TA:** Rachel Wong  
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**Office Hour:** M 11:00am-12:00pm  
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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.

### Requirements:

Informed tutorial participation	10%
In-Class Essay (on Oct 24 <sup>th</sup> )	20%
Comparative Essay, 5pp (due Nov 28 <sup>th</sup> )	20%
Research Essay, 6 pp (due Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> )	25%
Final Exam	25%

## **Reading List:**

### Prose:

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*.  
Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*.  
Califa, Patrick, "The Hustler" (Course Kit)  
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. One of them is in your Course Kit, and the rest can be found through the library's ejournal collection, as indicated throughout the syllabus. Being able to locate and access specific articles through the university library website is one of your learning objectives in the course.

## **Lecture Schedule and Required Readings:**

### Week One

Sept 5:

- Introduction

### Week Two

Sept 12:

#### **Tutorials and Office Hours start this week**

- Olson, Greta. "De-Americanizing Law and Literature Narratives: Opening Up the Story." *Law & Literature* 22.2 (2010): 338-364.
- Peters, Julie Stone. "Law, Literature, and the Vanishing Real: On the Future of an Interdisciplinary Illusion." *PMLA* 120.2 (2005): 442-453.

**Both articles can be found online through the York University Library website. Please make sure to print out the articles and bring them with you to class or download them to access on a mobile device.**

Week Three

Sept 19:

- Sophocles. *Antigone*

Week Four

Sept 26:

- Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*.  
**Read all of Part One (Ch. 1-13, inclusive)**

Week Five

Oct 3:

- Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*.  
**Read all of Parts Two and Three (Ch. 14-25, inclusive)**

Week Six

Oct 10:

- Parks, Suzan-Lori. *Venus*.

**Oct 17: Fall Reading Week. No Class**

Week Seven

Oct 24:

**\*\*\*\*In-Class Essay\*\*\*\***

**No tutorials or office hours this week**

Week Eight

Oct 31 (Happy Halloween!):

- Clarke, George Elliott. *George and Rue*.  
**Read from the beginning of the novel to the end of "Whip" (pp. xi -109, inclusive)**

Week Nine

Nov 7:

- Clarke, George Elliott. *George and Rue*.  
**Read to the end of the novel and read the note "Verdict" (pp. 111-220, inclusive)**

Week Ten

Nov 14:

- Glaspell, Susan. "A Jury of Her Peers." online:  
<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/GlaJury.html>
- West, Robin. "Economic Man and Literary Woman: One Contrast." *Mercer Law Review* 39. 3 (1988): 867-878.  
**West article available via the York University Library website.**  
**\*Please remember to print the article and Glaspell's short story out and bring them with you to class.**

### Week Eleven

Nov 21:

- Melville, Herman. *Billy Budd, Sailor* (in *Billy Budd, Sailor, and Other Stories*)

### Week Twelve

Nov 28:

**\*\*\*\* Comparative Essay Due IN CLASS \*\*\*\***

- Con't. discussion of *Billy Budd*
- Douglas, Lawrence. "Discursive Limits: Narrative and Judgment in *Billy Budd*." *Mosaic* 27.4 (1994): 141-160.

**Reading can be found via the York University Library website.**

**\*Please bring both the Melville novella and a printout of the article to class with you.**

**Have a Good Winter Break!**

### Week Thirteen

Jan 9:

- Sayers, Dorothy. *Gaudy Night*.

**Read Ch. 1-10, inclusive**

### Week Fourteen

Jan 16:

- Sayers, Dorothy. *Gaudy Night*.

**Read Ch. 11-23, inclusive**

### Week Fifteen

Jan 23:

- Shakespeare, William. *Measure For Measure*.

### Week Sixteen

Jan 30:

- Kushner, Tony. *Angels in America*.

### Week Seventeen

Feb 6:

- Kushner, Tony. *Angels in America*. **\*\*\*\* Research Essay Due IN CLASS \*\*\*\***

### Week Eighteen

Feb 13:

- Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*.

**Read Parts One and Two ("The Hearth and the Salamander" and "The Sieve and the Sand")**

## Feb 20 – Reading Week, No Class!

### Week Nineteen

Feb 27:

- Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*  
**Read Part Three (“Burning Bright”)**

### Week Twenty

March 6:

- Walton, Jo. *The Just City*  
**Read Chapters 1-19**

### Week Twenty-One

March 13:

- Walton, Jo. *The Just City*  
**Read Chapters 20-37 (end)**

### Week Twenty-Two

March 20:

- Cossman, Brenda. “Feminist Fashion or Morality in Drag? The Sexual Subtext of the *Butler* Decision.” (Course Kit)
- *Regina v. Butler* (online: <http://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/844/index.do>)  
**Read both the article and the legal decision in their entirety.**  
**\*Please remember to print out the legal decision and bring it with you to class.**

### Week Twenty-Three

March 27:

- Weissman, Aerlyn, Dir. *Little Sister’s vs Big Brother* (In-class screening)
- *Little Sister’s Book and Art Emporium v Canada* (online: <http://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/1835/index.do>)  
**For the legal decision: Read only the introductory summary (p 1120-1130)**  
**\*Please remember to print out the legal decision and bring it with you to class.**

### Week Twenty-Four

April 3:

- Califia, Patrick. “The Hustler.” (Course Kit)
- Review

## Participation

In this course, discussion and informed participation are crucial. Attendance is, of course, necessary in order to participate, but good attendance alone is not sufficient. Your participation mark will reflect the degree to which you make an active, and productive, contribution to our discussions. Please note that productivity does not just equal quantity, but also quality: i.e. your comments should be designed to forward discussion, not just to take up space. You are expected to come to class each week having read the assigned material and prepared yourself to talk about it with and in front of your tutorial leader and your peers.

## Format

All assignments are to be written in MLA format. 5% of your grade on each of your take-home essays will be dedicated to proper MLA formatting. You can find information about how to do MLA format here:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html)

## Writing Style

Good writing style is essential to good argumentation and clarity. Elements such as spelling, grammar, syntax, and structure are integral to your written work. Good writing style is expected of all of your assignments. If you find yourself having difficulty with your written work, I would encourage you to make an appointment at the York University Writing Centre: <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/centre/>

I have also included some online writing resources on the course moodle site, and you might find the book *They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein useful. The York Library has many copies, and it is also readily available for sale used and/or online.

## Learning Strategies

You can meet with professional Learning Skills Specialists free of charge through Learning Skills Services <http://lss.info.yorku.ca/>. Learning Skills Specialists can help you with academic skills such as note taking, studying, time management, and exam writing, among others. Learning Skills Services also offers workshops, peer coaching, and drop-ins. You must make use of at least one of these services once before you can book a one-on-one appointment with a Learning Skills Specialist.

## Academic Honesty/Secondary Sources

Students will be required to seek out secondary sources for their final research paper and may also seek out such sources to further their studies and help them to understand the course material. When a student draws from such a source in any way to write a paper, whether in the form of a direct quotation, a paraphrase, or an idea taken from someone else's work, it must be attributed and cited as such in the body of the essay and on the works cited page. Attributing ideas and quotations in this way is an important part of good scholarly practice. Failure to cite and/or attribute the work of others in **any of your course work** constitutes plagiarism. All discovered cases of plagiarism will be reported to the university. Please review the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty here:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69> and the Academic Integrity for Students page here:

<http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm>

### **TurnItIn**

Students must upload both the comparative and the research essays to TurnItIn via the course Moodle site. Students who choose to opt out of this requirement will need to submit outlines and drafts of all assignments as an alternative.

### **Late Penalties and Missed Tests and Exams:**

Late assignments will be penalized by two percent (2%) a day, excluding weekends. To submit a late essay, upload it to Moodle when it's finished, and then hand in a paper copy in the following class. WE WILL NOT GRADE PAPERS THAT WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED IN HARD COPY. Tests or exams that are missed without valid medical documentation cannot be re-written and will result in a grade of zero for that component of the course.

### **Email Etiquette**

Your instructors receive a large volume of email each day, so, while we will do our best to respond to emails quickly, you can expect responses to take between 2-3 business days. Be aware that we often receive a particularly large number of student emails closer to assignment deadlines, tests, and exams, and the increase may result in longer response times. Please check the syllabus before emailing a question. Also, avoid emailing questions about how to use MLA style (it's your responsibility to look this up). In short, don't use email as a substitute for doing the work that you should be able to do on your own, and we will be happy to answer your messages.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Laptops and tablets are permitted for note-taking purposes, but please use electronic devices for course-related activities only. Please remember to turn off your ringers and refrain from using cell phones or mp3 players in the classroom. Texting, watching videos, instant-messaging, facebook, etc, are distracting to your instructors and to the people around you. If you come in to class late do so quietly, and try not to disturb others.

### **Equity**

Every member of the York University community is entitled to equitable treatment, without harassment or discrimination on the grounds prohibited the Ontario Human Rights Code, including race, ancestry, place of origin, gender identity and gender expression, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, family and marital status, and disability. Derogatory language that targets people and/or groups on the basis of these protected grounds contributes to an inequitable environment and will not be tolerated. The one exception to this rule is quoting directly from or analyzing the language used in the texts we are studying, some of which include racist, sexist, etc. terms. If you do so, be sure that you're doing it to engage with the text and its concerns, not to "get away with it." The difference is apparent to anyone listening.

**Disability and Academic Accommodation**

Students with documented learning, mental health, physical, sensory, and/or medical disabilities are entitled to appropriate accommodation tailored to their specific needs. If you require accommodation, you are encouraged to contact Counselling and Disability Services (<http://cds.info.yorku.ca/>) as soon as possible to determine an accommodation plan and complete the relevant paperwork so that your needs can be met in this (and your other) course(s).