

# Add Course Request

Submitted on: 2011-03-11 12:27:40

1. COURSE SUBJECT	POLS
2. COURSE NUMBER (OR PROPOSED NUMBER)	3822W
3. COURSE TITLE	Law and Popular Culture
4. INITIATING DEPARTMENT or UNIT	Political Science
5. NAME OF SUBMITTER	Virginia A Hettinger
6. PHONE of SUBMITTER	Phone: +1 860 486 9053
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8. CONTACT PERSON	Oksan Bayulgen
9. UNIT NUMBER of CONTACT PERSON (U-BOX)	1024
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11. EMAIL of of contact person	Email: oksan.bayulgen@uconn.edu
12. Departmental Approval Date	10/13/2010
13. School/College Approval Date	10/19/2010
14. Names and Dates of additional Department and School/College approvals	
15. Proposed Implementation Date	Term: Spring, Year: 2012
16. Offered before next printed catalog is distributed?	Yes
17. General Education Content Area	
18. General Education Skill Code (W/Q). Any non-W section?	W Yes
19. Terms Offered	Semester: Fall Spring Summer Year: Every_Year
20. Sections	Sections Taught: 1
21. Student Number	Students/Sections: 19
22. Clarification: This is for a W variant of an existing course. Enrollment is limited to 19 for this version. Enrollment can be 45 for the non W version.	
23. Number of Credits	3 if VAR Min: Max: credits each term
24. INSTRUCTIONAL PATTERN	

Three class periods on a MWF pattern, 2 class periods on a T/Th schedule	
25. Will this course be taught in a language other than English?	No If yes, then name the language:
26. Please list any prerequisites, recommended preparation or suggested preparation: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800; open to juniors or higher.	
27. Is Instructor, Dept. Head or Unit <b>Consent Required?</b>	No
28. Permissions and Exclusions:  Open only to Juniors or higher	
29. Is this course <b>repeatable for credit?</b>	No If yes, total credits allowed: Allow multiple enrollments in same term?
30. <b>Grading Basis</b>	Graded
31. If satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading is proposed, please provide <b>rationale</b> :	
32. Will the course or any sections of the course be taught as Honors? AsHonors	
33. Additional Details:	
34. Special Attributes:	
35. <b>REGIONAL CAMPUS AVAILABILITY:</b> Course can be taught at regional campuses if a qualified instructor is available	
36. PROVIDE THE PROPOSED TITLE AND COMPLETE CATALOG COPY:  POLS 3822W. Law and Popular Culture Either Semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800; open to juniors or higher. Exploration of themes in the study of law and courts by contrasting scholarly work against representations of such themes in movies, television, and other media of popular culture.	
37. <b>RATIONALE FOR ACTION REQUESTED</b>  This is a W variant of an existing course. Having taught the non W version several times I know that material and the assignments lend themselves to the modification necessary for teaching the course in a W format.	
38. <b>SYLLABUS:</b>  Online URL: ( <a href="https://web2.uconn.edu/senateform/request/course_uploads/vah02004-1299864460-POLS_3822W_syllabus.doc">https://web2.uconn.edu/senateform/request/course_uploads/vah02004-1299864460-POLS 3822W syllabus.doc</a> )	
39. <b>Course Information: ALL General Education courses, including W and Q courses, MUST answer this question</b>  a. The course combines portrayals of the legal system in movies and popular press books (fiction and non-fiction) with scholarly discussions of the legal system. The goal is to challenge students to reflect on the accuracy of these portrayals, as well as the political and public policy	

implications of the legal system as it is structured and as it is portrayed.

b. Take home midterm exam-essay format

Traditional in-class final-essay and short answer

Three paper assignments that build in length and complexity.

Regular in-class activities that will cover course content as well as writing (see below).

c. Topics include: portrayals of lawyers, portrayals of the legal system, the role and selection of judges, the death penalty, and the use of civil litigation to change behaviors

d. n/a

**40. Goals of General Education: All Courses Proposed for a Gen Ed Content Area MUST answer this question**

N/A

**41. Content Area and/or Competency Criteria: ALL General Education courses, including W and Q courses, MUST answer this question.: Specific Criteria**

a. **Arts and Humanities:**

b. **Social Sciences:**

c. **Science and Technology:**

i. **Laboratory:**

d. **Diversity and Multiculturalism:**

43. **International:**

e. **Q course:**

f. **W course:**

The course requires 16-22 pages of writing, satisfies the page number requirements. The three writing assignments build in length and in level of demand for independent research and documentation. I will provide instruction on citation format and judging sources. The first two papers will be graded and discussed with students in an in-class writing workshop. The final paper will be reviewed in draft form and returned to students for revisions. I will use the writing workshops and other small in-class activities to illustrate common errors in grammar and style. Throughout the course I will use a writing manual as an instructional tool to illustrate the errors and provide strategies for correcting these errors. The take-home midterm will be graded for content and style to provide additional feedback to students on their writing.

**42. RESOURCES:**

Does the department/school/program currently have resources to offer the course as proposed  
YES

If NO, please explain why and what resources are required to offer the course.

**43. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**ADMIN COMMENT:**

Senate approved W 4.25.11 // GEOCWapp\_040711AP. Wvariantofexistingnon-Wcourse\_031111AP.

**POLS 3822W**

**Law and Popular Culture**

Professor Virginia A. Hettinger

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This is a W course. As such we will follow of the university guidelines. The information below is taken from the General Education guidelines. Please read it carefully.

**Criteria**

Courses (and their equivalents) appropriate for a W designation should:

1. Require that students write a minimum of fifteen pages that have been revised for conceptual clarity and development of ideas, edited for expression, and proofread for grammatical and mechanical correctness;
2. Address writing in process, require revision, and provide substantial supervision of student writing. (The structure of revision and supervision may vary, including in-class writing workshops, individual consultation, substantial formative commentary on drafts, and so on.);
3. Have an enrollment cap of nineteen students per section;
4. Make explicit the relation between writing and learning in the course;

5. Articulate the structure of supervision of student writing;
6. Explain the place and function of revision in the course;
7. Detail how the page requirement will be met;
8. Require that students must pass the writing component in order to pass the course.

**Books:**

The readings are available on through the UConn library. You are only required to purchase one book but you must have this book in order to complete the writing and revision process.

Hacker, Diana. 2008. *A Pocket Style Manual*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Bedford/St Martin's. ISBN: 0-312-45275-6

**Course Requirements:**

Class activities	10%
Paper 1	10%
Paper 2	10%
Paper 3	25%
Midterm	20%
Final	25%

Remember, you must pass the W part of the class to review a passing grade in course.

**Attendance:** Regular and attentive class attendance is necessary to succeed in this course. While I do not take attendance, there are in-class activities, including writing workshop activities and quizzes that will count toward your grade.

**Exams:** There will be a midterm take home exam. The final will take place in during the scheduled exam time.

**Paper 1:** Submit a 3-5 page biographical essay. I am giving you a topic that should require no outside sources because I do not want you to worry about citations but I DO want you to concentrate on submitting an example of your best formal writing.

**Paper 2:** Submit a 3-5 page paper that discusses your favorite representation of the legal system in American popular culture. In the paper you should explain:

- The program, book, or film
- Why it is your favorite
- Whether you believe it presents a realistic portrayal of the legal system, based on your current understanding of the system.
- Whether you believe any departures from reality (as you understand it now) are necessary for the success of the work you are discussing and whether more realism would enhance or detract from the work's effectiveness.

You will be expected to provide citations, where appropriate, to the work and any other documentation you consult. We will discuss this in class and have a citation workshop prior to the due date.

**Paper 3:** Select a film or book not listed on the syllabus. It should truly reflect popular culture. Please avoid academic press books or videos aimed at classroom use. Please get the work you choose approved by me by October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please assume I have read or seen the work you are discussing. This means you should not devote a great deal of time to summarizing the plot or characters. Devote your 10-12 pages to analyzing the work in two ways.

First, discuss the work in the context of two of the themes we have discussed in class. This means you will have to draw on the articles that have been assigned during the semester.

Second, discuss the work as a reflection of popular culture and as a possible influence on popular culture.

Since you will draw on some of the assigned articles (and any others you may consult) you will have to provide citations to those articles. If you are doing a book, you will need to provide citations to the specific pages from the book that are the basis for the discussion. If you are doing a film please refer to the hour/minute of the movie in which the scene takes place.

A draft of the **entire** paper, in hard copy, is due at 4:00 p.m. the Friday before Thanksgiving.

**Violations of Conduct Code:** This is a matter I take very seriously. I will handle any academic misconduct in accord with the University's Conduct Code. If you are not familiar with this document I direct your attention to the following web page:

[http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/student\\_code.html](http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/student_code.html)

## Schedule

Week 1

### **Introduction**

Week 2

### **Legal Education**

Reading assignment:

Susan Sturm and Lani Guinier. 2007. "The Law School Matrix: Reforming Legal Education in a Culture of Competition and Conformity." *Vanderbilt Law Review* 60: 515-553. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

Michael H. Davis. 1981. "The Courtroom Mystique and Legal Education." *Arizona Law Journal* 23: 661-688. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

In class films: *The Paper Chase*

Week 3

**Library research session on Monday.**

**Paper 1 due at start of class on Friday.**

### **The Lawyer as Hero**

Reading assignment:

Michael Asimow. 1996. "When Lawyers Were Heroes." *University of San Francisco Law Review* 30 (Summer): 1131-1138. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

John Jay Osborn. 1996. "Atticus Finch—The End of Honor: A Discussion of *To Kill a Mockingbird*." *University of San Francisco Law Review* 30 (Summer): 1139-1142. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

In class film: *To Kill a Mockingbird*



Week 4

**Paper 1 will be returned on Wednesday. We will have an in-class writing workshop to review common errors. Bring Hacker book to class.**

**The Lawyer as Villian**

Reading assignment:

Michael Asimow. 2000. "Bad Lawyers in Movies." *Nova Law Review* 24 (Winter): 533-591. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

In class film: *The Devil's Advocate*

Week 5

**Citation/ plagiarism workshop on Wednesday**

**Legal Ethics**

Reading assignment:

Tonja Haddad. 2000. Silver Tongues on the Silver Screen: Legal Ethics in the Movies." *Nova Law Review* 24: 673-700. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

Carrie Menkel-Meadow. 2001. "Can They Do That? Legal Ethics in Popular Culture: Of Characters and Acts." *U.C.L.A. Law Review* 48: 1305-1337. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

In class: *The Verdict*

Week 6

**Paper 2 due at start of class on Monday. Paper will be returned on Friday. We will have an in-class writing workshop to review common errors. Bring Hacker book to class.**

**The Law Firm**

Reading assignment:

Michael Asimow. 2001. "Embodiment of Evil: Law Firms in the Movies." *U.C.L.A. Law Review* 48: 1305-1337. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

In class films: TBA

Week 7

### **Judges and Judging**

**Take home midterm exam due on Friday at start of class. Exams will be graded on content and writing.**

Reading assignment:

Sheldon Goldman. 1982. "Judicial Selection and the Qualities that Make a "Good" Judge." *The Annals of The American Academy Of Political And Social Science*, 462: 112-124. Please access through ejournal locator at library.

Michael Asimow. 1998. "Judges Judging Judges." *Picturing Justice: The Online Journal of Law and Popular Culture*

<http://www.usfca.edu/pj/articles/Nuremberg.htm>

Doug Linder. 2000. *The Nuremberg Trials, The Justice Trials*

<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/nuremberg/Alstoetter.htm#Commentary>

In class film: *Judgment at Nuremberg*

Week 8

### **Judges and Judging**

**Final paper topic must be approved**

Reading Assignment:

John Grisham. 2008. *The Appeal*. Dell Books.

In class film: *The Star Chamber*

Week 9

### **The Jury System**

Reading assignment:

Nancy S. Marder. 2003. "Introduction to the Jury at a Crossroad: The American Experience." *Chicago-Kent Law Review* 78: 909-933. You need only read through page 925. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

Carol J. Clover. 1999. "Movie Juries." *DePaul Law Review* 48: 389-405. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

In class film: *12 Angry Men*

Week 10

### **The Death Penalty**

Reading assignment:

John Grisham. 2006. *The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town*. Doubleday.

Roberta M. Harding. 1996. "Celluloid Death: Cinematic Depictions of Capital Punishment." *University of San Francisco Law Review* 30: 1167-1180. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

In class film: *Dead Man Walking*

Week 11

### **Complete Draft of paper due by 4:00 Friday**

#### **Criminal Litigation-Prosecution**

Reading Assignment:

Abbe Smith. 2001. "Can You Be A Good Person and A Good Prosecutor?" *Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics*. 14: 355-400. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

In class film: TBA

Week 12

#### **Criminal Litigation-Defense**

Reading Assignment:

Abbe Smith and William Montross. 1999. "The Calling of Criminal Defense." *Mercer Law Review* 50: 443-535. Please access through Hein Online database available through the library web site.

In class film: *A Time to Kill*

Week 13

**Civil Litigation**

Reading assignment:

Gerald M. Stern. 1976. *The Buffalo Creek Disaster*. New York: Vintage Books.

In class film: *Erin Brokovic*

TBA

**Final exam**