

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
2010-11 COURSE REGISTRATION – PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION¹

COURSE	Law 339 Legal Theory Workshop
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours per week) and a film lab
INSTRUCTOR	Rebecca Johnson
TERM OFFERED	Spring 2011
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES	None

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

In this workshop, we will explore the ways in which theoretical perspectives can help explain various aspects of the operation of law both as a doctrinal system, and as an important form of social control. We will do this by studying a number of popular cultural texts (primarily films, but also biblical sources, and short stories) that are concerned with law, gender and justice. We will ask questions about the theories which are embedded in our readings of each of the cultural texts, and about the visions of justice which are advanced by those theories. To this end, we will be discussing and applying the insights of a number of theoretical approaches which may include: film theory; law & literature; feminist legal theory; critical race theory; law & economics; psychoanalytic theory; critical legal studies; and cultural studies. The aim will be to better understand the theoretical and cultural mechanisms through which gender and law are constantly renegotiated. We will also be considering the place of film as a tool of legal advocacy.

METHODOLOGY

The course will be conducted as a seminar where we will all learn from and teach each other. Class attendance, preparedness and participation constitute a primary course requirement. Attend class prepared to engage in informed dialogue about the assigned readings, and the assigned movies. Attendance is required. With the approval of the professor, missed classes may be made up by the submission of a written comment (no more than 3 pages) on the texts/films assigned for that class.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

- Paper/Film Project = 55%
- Annotated Bibliography = 10%
- Participation:
 - Written Responses/Questions = 10%
 - 2-3 Page Final Comment = 5%
 - Resource Participation (article summaries and journal) = 10%
 - In-Class Participation = 10%

March 25, 2010

¹ The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is *subject to change*. More detailed course information about course content and evaluation will be provided upon the commencement of the course. Students seeking additional information about the course prior to its commencement may contact the instructor or, if no instructor is listed, the Manager of Academic Administration and Student Services (lawmaass@uvic.ca).