

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
2023-24 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION (PCIS)¹

COURSE	LAW 395A Intersocietal Jurisprudence through Cinema
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week plus film lab)
INSTRUCTOR	Rebecca Johnson
TERM OFFERED	Fall 2023
CLASS TIMES	See schedule
PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES	None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course involves an intersocietal engagement of Canadian and Inuit legal orders rooted in cinematic texts. We will focus on a number of different aspects of law/legal orders as captured within cinematic storytelling. First, we will explore the various aspects of (legal) storytelling that seek to persuade us about different ways of understanding law, justice, gender, community and nation. To what extent do these cinematic stories help make visible differing legal orders, or differing cultural visions of the role of law in society? How do different theories of law, storytelling and rhetoric help us understand these relationships? Second, we will be focusing on the ways that sound and sight are integrated into various understandings of law and justice (and truth). We will draw on theoretical, philosophical and practical scholarship about the cinematic realm in order to further explore how these tools of persuasion are related to our understandings of justice. Third, we will be asking questions about the relationship of the reader/listener/spectator to the object of persuasion. That is, we will explore not only the objects of persuasion (legal opinions, images, movies, sculptures), as if all meaning were resident in the object itself, but will consider also various practices of interpretation, and the place of the reader/spectator/bystander/lawyer in the co-creation of meaning. Students will have the opportunity to either write a final paper, or to put these insights to action through individual projects which draw on audio/visual/cinematic resources to make legal arguments, or explore law in the world around them.

METHODOLOGY

This will be a (hopefully) laptop free classroom, one focused on active engagement and collaborative work. In-person attendance is expected (there will be provision for missed classes to be made up). The focus of the workshop will be on classroom conversation, with serious attention to questions about the different ways in which we see and hear. I will make provision for there to be one person assigned as note-taker in each class (or rather, of providing a summary of what they saw as interesting/significant during the class). The plan is for people to feel generally liberated from practices of notetaking, so that they can concentrate on the business of working with each other in a fully engaged fashion. No prior experience in film theory is required.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Participation/Portfolio: = 50%

- Film Comments/Discussion Questions = 20%
- Article Summaries/Community Journal = 20%
- Final Comment = 10%

Final Project/Paper = 50%

July 2023

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, law.studentservices@uvic.ca.