Law and Literature Reading List, Spring 2016

This class counts as a writing course toward the law school’s upper-level writing requirement. Your grade is based on your papers (3 short ones, due at semester thirds, or you may consolidate two into one longer paper), class participation, and weekly quizzes.

Your grade formula is the minimum of (quiz grades, and 0.5 paper grade + 0.5 class participation grade). In other words, if your quiz grades are lower than that specified weighted average, your quiz grade is your grade. Otherwise I average your paper and participation grades and this is almost always what happens because people typically come well prepared for the quizzes and ace them.

The honor code covers all aspects of this class and please let me know if appropriate allowances need to be made for student disabilities. I note also that some of the readings cover or describe some violent and traumatic acts; if you prefer a substitute assignment for any particular reading or topic, please let me know.

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The New English Bible, Oxford Study Edition
Guantanamo Diary, by Mohamedou Ould Slahi
Albert Camus, The Stranger
Kamel Daoud, The Meursault Investigation
Njal’s Saga (on-line version is fine)
Glaspell’s Trifles, available on-line.
Year’s Best SF 9, edited by David G. Hartwell and Kathryn Cramer, used or Kindle edition is recommended
The Metamorphosis, In the Penal Colony, and Other Stories, by Franz Kafka, edited and translated by Joachim Neugroschel.

In the Belly of the Beast, by Jack Henry Abbott.

Sherlock Holmes, The Complete Novels and Stories, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, volume 1, also on-line.

I, Robot, by Isaac Asimov.

Moby Dick, by Hermann Melville, excerpts, chapters 89 and 90, available on-line.

Death and the Maiden, Ariel Dorfman.

The Pledge, Friedrich Durrenmatt.

Ian McEwan, The Children Act

We also will see some films and cover some very short on-line readings, as I will distribute at the appropriate times; your papers may draw on these as well.