Law and Literature Reading List, Spring 2014

This class counts as a “writing” course towards students’ 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 come well prepared for the quizzes and ace them.

The honor code covers all aspects of this class. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at (703) 993-2474 if appropriate allowances need to be made for student disabilities.

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The New English Bible, Oxford Study Edition
Glaspell’s Trifles, available on-line.
Billy Budd and Other Tales, by Hermann Melville.
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.
I, Robot, by Isaac Asimov.
Moby Dick, by Hermann Melville, excerpts, chapters 89 and 90, available on-line.
Year’s Best SF 9, edited by David G. Hartwell and Kathryn Cramer.
Death and the Maiden, Ariel Dorfman.
The Pledge, Friedrich Durrenmatt.
Haruki Murakami, Underground.
Honore de Balzac, Colonel Chabert.
Thomas Pynchon, The Crying of Lot 49.
M.E. Thomas, Confessions of a Sociopath.
Alan Moore, V for Vendetta.
Gillian Flynn, Gone Girl.

Some additions to this list will be made as we proceed, mostly a few short articles.

We also will view a few movies on legal themes, I will be back in touch on these. It is fine to write a paper on one of the movies.