Law and Literature Reading List, Spring 2015

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. Some of the material covered involves violent crimes or otherwise disturbing topics. If you have a particular problem with something under consideration, I can arrange a make-up assignment, please let me know.

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The New English Bible, Oxford Study Edition

The Law Code of Manu, Penguin edition

Njal’s Saga (on-line version is fine)

Lawyer Poets and that World Which We Call Law, edited by James Elkins

Glaspell’s Trifles, available on-line.

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.
Mikhail Khodorkovsky, My Fellow Prisoners
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.
E.M. Forster, A Passage to India.
Haruki Murakami, Underground.
Honore de Balzac, Colonel Chabert.
Toer, Pramoedya Ananta, House of Glass.
M.E. Thomas, Confessions of a Sociopath.

Podcast: Serial

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.