

English 001H

Criminal Entertainments: Sex, Violence, and the Law in Literature

3 credit hrs. GEC literature requirement completed prerequisite

MWF 10:30-11:20, 219 Main

Professor Kathleen Kennedy

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AIM: PSUDrK

Office Hours: WF 12:30-1:30 in front of the Learning Center, Lower Level Vairo
electronic office hrs more or less from breakfast to bedtime 7 days/week

OR BY APPOINTMENT

Learning Outcomes:

In this challenging course, we will develop familiarity with English literature with legal themes and investigate how gender is linked to violence in English literature across a number of genres. As we do this we will explore the story-telling never too far from our impartial legal system.

Texts:

Love Your ANGEL

- this syllabus, and many of the texts for this course will be available via ANGEL

Books:

Shakespeare, *Titus Andronicus*

Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*

Robert Browning, *The Ring and the Book*

Ian McEwan, *Atonement*

Caution: you need not have all of these books in these precise editions!!

Buy the books at the bookstore only if they're convenient for you to buy; otherwise pick up whatever used edition comes cheaply to hand, or check an edition out from the library. Notice that many of the course texts are available online. You may read these online, but **please bring a copy to refer to in-class.**

In Addition- you will notice many texts on our reading list that are listed as "ANGEL." Many of the texts we will work with this semester will be read in original editions, loaded or linked to on ANGEL. As with the online texts, please bring a copy to refer to in class.

Daily participation is required: you must come prepared with a text, or you may be asked to leave the class: if you are using an online text, feel free to print out a copy, or load it onto a laptop, phone, or other portable e-text reader.

Course Requirements:

Position Papers: 5 times throughout the semester you will be asked to take a position on a text or texts we have covered in class and support that position using close reading of the texts.
3-5pgs each

Website: Small teams will select a contemporary case out of the popular media and develop an educational website examining the narrative-building in the media coverage surrounding the case.

Website Presentation: Teams will present websites to the class during the last week of school.

Evaluation: A-F scale

Position Papers- 5 @ 12% each = 60%

Website- 1 @ 25%

Website Presentation- 1 @ 15%

Classroom Policies:

Attendance: PARTICIPATION, and therefore ATTENDANCE is crucial. After 4 unexcused absences, your final grade will suffer 1/3 of a grade for each absence. Excused absences include documented illness, family tragedy, religious observance, or travel for inter-collegiate athletics, and do not affect your

grade as long as you notify me. *You will be awarded a failing grade after 9 unexcused absences.*

- If you have excuse-slips for absences, these must be turned in to me (copies are fine) *no later than the final exam*. I will accept no excuse slips after that date.
- After the first week of classes attendance is taken on a signup sheet- it is your responsibility to get your name on the sheet during or immediately after class.

Lateness:

- If you are more than 15 min late, you are ineligible to sign-in.
- TURN ASSIGNMENTS IN ON TIME or grades will suffer for it, a full letter-grade each day it is late.
- If you find yourself in technology melt-down, remain calm. I will accept a paper emailed to me before midnight on the due date as a "placeholder" and not consider the paper late. **I must receive a paper copy at your earliest convenience.** I do not grade emailed papers: they are only placeholders for the paper copy. If you must take advantage of this option, you must alert me to the situation before or during class on the due date. No exceptions.
- **NO LATE FINALS ARE ACCEPTED** without ER, OR, military, or police notification. Finals must be turned in as paper. Emailed finals are not accepted.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to act with civility and personal integrity; respect other students' dignity, rights and property; and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their own efforts. An environment of academic integrity is requisite to respect for self and others and a civil community. Academic integrity includes a commitment not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another person's work as one's own, using Internet sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, "ghosting" (taking or having another student take an exam), stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, etc.

Students charged with a breach of academic integrity will receive due process and, if the charge is found valid, academic sanctions may range from F for the assignment to F for the course, depending on the severity of the offense.

The University's statement on academic integrity, from which the above statement is drawn, is available at <http://www.psu.edu/dept/oue/aappm/G-9.html>

Note to students with disabilities: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, it is Penn State's policy to provide reasonable academic adjustments for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability-related need for modifications in this course, contact Sharon Manco, 610-892-1461, 127 Vairo Library, sam26@psu.edu. This notification should occur by the end of the first week of the semester. Students may visit www.equity.psu.edu/ods/ for complete information.

Classroom Behavior:

- I strongly urge you not to test my depths of disgust for discriminatory behavior. We will all be challenged during this course, and we must work to maintain a safe space in which to discuss these difficult issues.
- Thanks to my firm belief in respecting others, I myself demand similar respect. Just as I expect that you not pass notes, chitchat, text, or play phonegames out of respect for your fellow classmates, I expect that you refrain from these activities out of respect for me as well. I retain the right to confiscate temporarily phones, paper, laptops, or any other device I believe is disrupting the classroom environment. These will be returned at the end of class.
- Respectful speech will be expected at all times. Failure to behave in an acceptable fashion in my class will result in verbal reprimands, and may lead to your being asked to leave the classroom.
- If you feel that myself or a fellow classmate is being disrespectful to you, please bring this to my attention immediately, and I will do my best to correct the situation swiftly.

Consider the tone of this syllabus carefully. You deserve a classroom environment in which you know you will be comfortable! Read this syllabus carefully, and ask around on campus to make sure I'm the right professor for you. If you think we can work together, great! If not, I respect that you take your education that seriously, thanks. You are free to drop the course the first week of school. If you remain, your presence and participation is considered to be implicit acceptance of my decisions in the classroom, and you accept that I have issued a written statement concerning my expectations of you in the course. Therefore, you will not be surprised if I pursue disciplinary measures, up to and including dismissal from class, gentle sarcasm and mild mockery, for failure to abide by the classroom rules. *If you choose to withdraw from this course it is solely your responsibility to do so.* (As in, I can help, but you must fetch, fill-out, & file all the paperwork).

A Word about Internet Communication: as you see on the first page of the syllabus, I have a teaching IM account. When you message PSUDrK or email kek16@psu.edu, you know to whom you're writing. Unless you tell me who you are, I may not, however, know who -you- are. Fluffybunny96@yahoo and Otaku43vr don't help me help you as a teacher- they don't even id which of my classes you're in! So, please, [insert net handle here], add your real name before you press "enter," yes please? *I am under no obligation to open apparently anonymous emails or respond to apparently anonymous messages- if you do not identify yourself, as is both practical and common courtesy, you may receive no response from me.*

1	M 1/11	Medieval Lex Divina, Lex Naturalis, Lex Positiva	selected English laws of felony
	W 1/13		Robert Palmer's English Legal Course- W Palmer re: Women & the Law- W
	F 1/15		Wiltenberg, "True Crime: The Origins of Modern Sensationalism" W
2	M 1/18	No School!	
	W 1/20	Classing Rape in the Courts	Chaucer, <i>Wife of Bath's Tale</i> - W, Gower, <i>Tale of Laurent</i> - W, <i>The Weddyng of Sir Gawaine and Dame Ragnell</i> - W
	F 1/22		WBT-cont.
3	M 1/25		Chaucer, <i>Physician's Tale</i> - W, Gower, <i>Confessio Amantis</i> , Virginia-story- W
	W 1/27		Shakespeare, <i>Titus Andronicus</i> , I-II W & B Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , Philomel-story Medieval Position Paper Due
	F 1/29		<i>Titus</i> , III-V
4	M 2/1		<i>Titus</i> , wrap
	W 2/3		Julie Taymore's <i>Titus</i> (movie), selections
	F 2/5		Julie Taymore's <i>Titus</i> (movie), selections
5	M 2/8	Anarchy in the UK?	Guy Fawkes & the Gunpowder Plot Gun Powder Plot docs – ANGEL Titus Position Paper Due
	W 2/10		Selections from royal proclamations. ANGEL
	F 2/12		<i>V for Vendetta</i>
6	M 2/ 15		<i>V for Vendetta</i>
	W 2/17		<i>V</i> wrap

	F 2/19	Narrating the Lust for Land	<i>The Arraignment and Conviction of Mervin Lord Audley Earl of Castlehaven</i> (London, 1642), <i>The Trial of the Lord Audley, Earl of Castlehaven</i> (London, 1679) ANGEL
7	M 2/22		<i>The Tryal and Condemnation of Mervin Lord Audley Earl of Castlehaven</i> (London, 1699) ANGEL excerpts from Cobbett's <i>State Trials</i> vol. 3, col. 401ff. ANGEL
	W 2/24		Castlehaven Trial wrap
	F 2/26		Dickens, <i>Bleak House</i> - B Gunpowder Plot or Castlehaven Position Paper Due
8	M 3/1		<i>Bleak House</i>
	W 3/3		<i>Bleak House</i>
	F 3/5		<i>Bleak House</i>
9		Spring Break!	
10	M 3/15		<i>Bleak House</i>
	W 3/17		<i>Bleak House</i>
	F 3/19		<i>Bleak House</i> , wrap
11	M 3/22	Telling (II)legal Stories: The Shocking Continent	Browning, <i>The Ring and the Book</i> Book 2 B Bleak House Position Paper Due
	W 3/24		Book 2 cont.
	F 3/26		Browning, Book 5
12	M 3/29		Book 5 cont.
	W 3/31		Browning, Book 7
	F 4/2		Book 7 cont.
13	M 4/5		Browning, Book 11
	W 4/7		Book 11 cont.
	F 4/9		Browning, Book 12
14	M 4/12		Book 12 cont.
	W 4/14	Telling (II)legal Stories: Travestied Justice	Ian McEwan, <i>Atonement</i> B The Ring and the Book Position Paper Due
	F 4/16		<i>Atonement</i> , cont.
15	M 4/19		<i>Atonement</i> , cont.
	W 4/21		<i>Atonement</i> wrap
16	F 4/23		<i>Atonement</i> , clips
	M 4/26		Presentations websites due
	W 4/28		Presentations websites due
	F 4/30		Presentations websites due

See ANGEL for the University H1N1 policy.