In this class, we will read a variety of texts including novels, short stories, essays, political documents, and judicial opinions in an effort to explore various legal and rhetorical issues through a philosophical framework. The course will consider how written texts involving legal themes address common concerns, including morality, justice, equality, revenge, forgiveness and fairness from different perspectives, aesthetic styles, and formal constraints. We will also consider how narrative itself has the power to influence politics and society, and ultimately to shape history.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- **Billy Budd, Sailor and Selected Tales** by Herman Melville (Oxford World Classics)
- **Great Short Works of Edgar Allan Poe** (1840) by Edgar Allan Poe, Harper Perennial Ed.
- **Chronicle of a Death Foretold** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, (Vintage Publishing)
- **Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury (50th Anniversary Ed.)
- **Antigone** by Sophocles Simon & Brown Publishers

You will find the following on D2L:

- **On the Duty of Civil Disobedience** by Henry David Thoreau
- **Fugitive Slave Law** by Ralph Waldo Emerson
- **A Jury of Her Peers** by Susan Glaspell
- **The Lottery** by Shirley Jackson
- **The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas** by Ursula LeGuin
- **The Declaration of Independence** by Thomas Jefferson
- **The Case of the Speluncean Explorers** by Lon Fuller

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance in the course is mandatory and I take roll every day. The class is totally discussion-based and if you’re not here, the class won’t work, period. You get 3 free absences, no excuses required. After that, your grade drops by 1/3 for every unexcused absence. If you have an excused absence, this of course won’t count against you; just let me know. Please be mindful of this policy.
**PARTICIPATION POLICY:**

This is a discussion-based class and your daily participation is absolutely essential. If you are one who doesn’t like to talk in class, come talk to me about it immediately so that I can help you overcome this issue; it’s imperative to your success in the class.

The full benefit of literature is gained in discussion with others who are equally engaged with the text. Any of us could read the works on the syllabus, alone in a room in the dead of night, perhaps with a few critical essays alongside, and get a lot out of them. This is always worth doing, but it has its limitations.

We are likely to get more out of these readings if we can talk about the stories, the characters, and the language with those similarly inclined. This phenomenon of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts is also true when lawyers gather to discuss and solve legal problems. For one thing, we are forced to articulate our inchoate thoughts as expressions that others can understand and in doing so we understand those thoughts better ourselves. For another, we hear not only how others articulate their thoughts, but we also learn from their responses to what we think. When people discuss any work of art, they extend it (at least in their own experience) and become participants in the creative process. A work of art, like law, lives on through interpretative acts, which are a form of creativity in themselves.

I reward your participation highly by devoting **15% of your grade** to it. Don’t be intimidated by this—any form of participation is valuable; you don’t have to come up with a masterfully insightful reading of a particular text, you can just ask **questions** about what we’ve read—if you have a question, it’s likely that someone else does too, and by asking it, you’ve not only increased your understanding, you’ve also enlightened your peers. Ask it. You cannot get an A in this class unless you participate daily.

To help us facilitate discussion each day, I will assign a small group of you (usually 2 or 3) to lead the group discussion for the day. You will be responsible for starting the discussion on the same day each week. So there will be a Monday group, a Tuesday group, and so on. This will count toward your participation grade for the class. You should communicate outside of class with your group mates to talk about the issues you want to bring up for that day’s discussion in advance.

If you’re curious about your participation grade at any time, ask yourself how you fit into the following:

- **Contribute to class thoughtfully on a daily basis:** A range
- **Contribute to class thoughtfully a majority of days:** B range
- **Volunteer only occasionally:** C range
- **Volunteer rarely; rarely answer questions:** D range
ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

There are 100 points possible in the course. Your grade will be determined by your performance on the following assignments:

- **Participation (15%)**: Your activity during class discussions will be graded based on **frequency and quality** of the content you provide as well as and group activities and your weekly discussion-leading.

- **In-Class Writing (10%)**: We will have several in-class writing assignments, which you will turn in—please bring a notebook each day with a pen or pencil. I will not grade these, but will read them and keep them in a file, which will serve as a portfolio for the semester. You will be graded for the entire content.

- **Papers (55%)**: You will write FOUR formal papers this term; the first is on the subject of civil disobedience and the duty to obey the law. The second will be on the novel “Billy Budd,” the third will be on the film “Capturing the Friedmans,” and the last will be a research paper on the relationship between fiction and the law. There will an additional short, reflective paper at the end of the term as well (approximately 2 pages). More details will follow for each assignment.

- **Mock Trial Group Project 15%**: We will have a mock trial during the course and you will each have a specific role to play, with an oral and written component to it.

WRITING CENTER INFORMATION

The Program for Writing and Rhetoric offers FREE help for all students on papers at the Writing Center, which is located in the library, on the first floor, next to the reference desk at the east entrance. I **highly recommend** that you set appointments with the center early, as they fill up quickly. The tutors will proofread your work, help you with content, grammar, and other issues...for FREE. Please utilize this service for your papers in this class. To set an appointment, call: (303)735-6906 or email wrtghelp@colorado.edu.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**Tentative Weekly Schedule, (Subject to Minor Changes):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment for Today + Homework for next class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 8.27</td>
<td>Course Introduction, introductions to each other, read syllabus – In-class writing assignment: “where does law come from”? HW: Read Declaration of Independence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Homework</td>
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<td>---------</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 9.3</td>
<td><strong>LABOR DAY, NO CLASS</strong></td>
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</table>
| W 9.5   | Discuss: *Resistance to Civil Government*  
HW: Read: “Antigone” by Sophocles |
| M 9.10  | Discuss: “Antigone”  
HW: Read: “The Fugitive Slave Law” by R.W. Emerson |
| W 9.12  | Discuss: Emerson  
HW: Read “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” by Ursula LeuGin |
| M 9.17  | Discuss: “Omelas”  
HW: Read: “The Case of the Speluncean Explorers” |
| **W 9.19** | Discuss: Speluncean Explorers  
HW: Read “A Jury of Her Peers”  
**FIRST PAPER DUE TODAY** |
| M 9.24  | Discuss “A Jury of Her Peers”  
HW: Read ‘Billy Budd’ pp. 279-296 |
| W 9.26  | Discuss: Budd  
HW: Read: “Billy Budd” pp. 297-345 |
| M 10.1  | Discuss: “Billy Budd”  
HW: Read: “Billy Budd” to the end |
| W 10.3  | Discuss: Final discussion “Billy Budd”  
HW: **SHORT BILLY BUDD ESSAY** |
| M 10.8  | **IN CLASS FILM**  
**BILLY BUDD ESSAY DUE TODAY** |
| W 10.10 | **IN CLASS FILM**  
HW: Read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury pp. 3-40 |
| M 10.15 | Discuss: F451  
HW: Read F451 pp. 41-68 |
| W 10.17 | Discuss: F451  
HW: Read F451 pp. 71-136 |
| M 10.22 | Discuss: F451  
**ESSAY ON FILM DUE TODAY**  
HW: Read F451 pp. 137-end |
| W 10.24 | Final Discussion: F451  
HW: Read: *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* pp. 1-47 |
| M 10.29 | Discuss: Chronicle  
HW: Read *Chronicle* pp. 48-71 |
| W 10.31 | Discuss Chronicle  
HW: Read Chronicle pp. 72-end |
| M 11.5  | Discuss Chronicle  
**MOCK TRIAL PREPARATION** |
| W 11.7  | **MOCK TRIAL PREPARATION**  
Library Research Lecture on case law and law review articles (Don’t Miss This Class) |
| M 11.12 | **DAY ONE MOCK TRIAL** |
| W 11.14 | **DAY TWO MOCK TRIAL** |
| M 11.19 | **THANKSGIVING BREAK**  
HW: Read Poe’s “Tell-Tale Heart” and “Cask of Amontillado” |
| M 11.26 | Discuss: Poe  
HW: Read “Murders in the Rue Morgue” |
| W 11.28 | Discuss: Poe  
HW: Read “The Purloined Letter” |
| M 12.3  | Discuss Poe +  
**IN CLASS FILM** |
| W 12.5  | **IN CLASS FILM**  
**SHORT POE ESSAY DUE TODAY** |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M 12.10</th>
<th>Discuss Film + Write final reflection paper in class</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 12.12</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF CLASS—FINAL PAPER DUE TODAY</td>
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</table>

**The following policies are required by the University of Colorado:**

**Students with disabilities:**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Religious holidays:**

Campus policy requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, if you have a religious conflict with class, please come talk to me about it. See: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

**Classroom behavior:**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion, and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, and nationalities. See: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html.

**Honor Code:**

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. I will report all incidents of academic misconduct to the Honor Code Council. Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). See http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html

**Discrimination and sexual harassment:**

The University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff member, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. For information and campus resources see http://www.colorado.edu/odh/.