1. **Title of the module**

LAWS5810 (LW581): Law and Literature and Film

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

Kent Law School

1. **The level of the module (e.g. Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 6

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

15 credits (7.5 ECTS Credits)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn or Spring

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

None

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

All single and joint honours law programmes. This module is also available to ERASMUS, and other short term students, visiting the law school.

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the significance of literature, and literary theory, for the study of law in the Western European tradition.
   2. Extrapolate and critically evaluate key themes within this tradition from literacy texts and appreciate the humanities context within which both literature and law have developed.
   3. Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the developments and changes in literary forms, the context within which literature is produced and received, and the relationship, where relevant, to the expectations of law.
   4. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the ways in which literary analysis deepens a reader’s understanding of text and the ways in which similar patterns of analysis can be brought to bear on legal texts.
   5. Understand the significance of key ideas developed in literary theory and relate them to an examination of our understanding of law.
   6. Identify and critically evaluate contemporary themes and issues evidenced in both the context and form of literary texts, and relate these to legal practices as well as critiques of law.
   7. Understand and appreciate, in a nuanced way, literary and rhetorical techniques evidenced in the practices of law, in particular such issues as the use of narrative and metaphor in legal judgments and the construction and trajectories of argumentation evidenced in legal texts and acts of performance.
2. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Write cogently and creatively about legal themes in selected texts, including film and television.
   2. Demonstrate a broad range of analytical skills including the close reading of text, methods for analysing and deconstructing text, and the extrapolation of key arguments and consideration of the form in which they have been presented.
   3. Situate texts within the context in which they were produced and are received.
   4. Formulate research questions and independently identify contemporary issues that can be examined through the use of literature and literary theory.
3. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

So much of law is about text and the manipulation of language: Becoming sensitive to the construction of narratives in judgements, learning to read argument in its many forms, recognising the ways in which words, and patterns of words, can be used to create effect, playing with ambiguities or seeking to express an idea with clarity, all these are fundamental skills for a lawyer. Law is also about performance, the roles which are assigned to us and the drama of the court room. And law, as text and performance, carries fundamental cultural messages about the society we live in and the values we aspire to. During this module, we will examine some of the many ways in which reading, viewing and listening to, ‘the arts’ helps us to think more concisely as well as more imaginatively about law. We welcome on to the module anyone who shares, with us, an enjoyment of reading, viewing and listening – this is a chance for students to be introduced to material they may not be familiar with as well as a chance to pursue an interest they may already have. Although the module is designed primarily for law students, it is also open to undergraduates from other degree programmes.

The module focuses on a small number of key texts through which to explore the themes and develop student skills. These vary from year to year.

1. **Reading List (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Preliminary Reading

* Camus, Albert, The Outsider (London: Penguin Books, 2012)
* Dickens, Charles, Bleak House (Wordsworth, 1993)
* Goodrich, Peter, Languages of Law (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1990)
* Kafka, Franz, The Trial (London: Penguin Books, 2000)
* Orwell, George, Politics and the English Language (Oxford City Press, 2009)
* Palahniuk, Chuck, Fight Club (London: Vintage, 1996)

Preliminary Viewing

* The Trial (1963) Directed by Orson Wells [Film]. USA: Astor Pictures Corporation

1. **Learning and Teaching methods**

This module will be taught by Combined Lecture/Seminar and private study.

Total study hours: 150

Contact hours: 20

Private study hours: 130

1. **Assessment methods.**

13.1 Main assessment methods

The module will be assessed by 100% coursework as follows:

Short Paper, 1000 words (10%)

Research Paper, 3000 words (90%)

13.2 Reassessment methods

The module will be reassessed by a reassessment instrument of a Research Essay for 100%. The reassessment will test all of the learning outcomes as indicated against the mapping of the research essay in section 14 below.

1. ***Map of Module Learning Outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to Learning and Teaching Methods (section 12) and methods of Assessment (section 13)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| **Learning / teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Combined Lecture/Seminar |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Private Study |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Assessment method** | Specify word length, duration, individual or group work (as appropriate) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Short paper (10%) | 1000 words |  |  |  | X | X |  | X | X | X | X |  |
| Research essay (90%) | 3000 words | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

1. The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

**a) Accessible resources and curriculum**

* 1. Preference will be given to electronic resources that meet minimum accessibility standards and support the use of assistive technologies.
  2. Module outlines will be made accessible before the module starts.
  3. Prioritised reading lists will be made available sufficiently in advance to accommodate the provision of alternative formats and support those with a slow reading speed.
  4. In accordance with Kent Law School’s agreed statement on lecture recording, the School will not routinely record teaching sessions that are heavily discussion based (i.e. combined lecture/seminars) which is the case in this module.

**b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

The inclusive practices in the guidance (Annex B Appendix A, section b (1) and (2)) have all been considered in order to support all students in their assessments on this module.

1. **Campus(es) or Centre(s) where module will be delivered:**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

In seminar discussions, reference is made by the lecturer to international political and legal contexts of texts examined. Contributions from students relating to international contexts and developments are encouraged. The reading material for some of the topics will include references to opinions published by international academics and critics.

**FACULTIES SUPPORT OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6 & 7 cover sheet) |
| 24/04/17 | Minor | September 2017 | 1 | No |
| 21/09/17 | Minor | September 2018 | 11, 13-15, 17 | No |