Laws 8055 Seminar: Media, Popular Culture and the Law

Instructor: Schlag

Credits (3) (2-fall/1-spring)

Meeting Times: Monday 4 to 6

General Description:

The intensity of technological change and the pervasiveness of new media—online research, games, email, data gathering, text messaging, blogging, etc.—are generally recognized to be having significant effects on our culture, consciousness, and politics. This seminar examines to what extent and how the new media is having an effect on the perceptions, roles and identities of law.

The first part of the seminar (fall semester—2 units) will be devoted to background reading in media studies and popular culture. This material is almost entirely extra-legal. We will have discussions led by class members (and me).

The second part of the seminar (spring semester—1 unit) will be devoted to writing a paper that falls within the general description above. I expect, however, that the paper topics will be much more narrowly focused.

The grade for the seminar will be given at the end of the spring semester and based on the paper and class participation.

Required Texts

The following are all available in paperback and can be ordered online.

Andrew Murphie and John Potts, Culture & Technology (2003)

Walter J. Ong, Orality and Literacy (New Accents) (2d ed. 2002)

Neil Postman, Amusing Ourselves to Death (2005)