

Subject card

Subject name and code	Camera, Action! Courtroom. What Useful Things Can Be Learned from Film Stories About Law and Lawyers, PG_00209433						
Field of study	Biology						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2024		Academic year of realisation of subject				
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		e-learning		
Year of study	3		Language of instruction		Polish polish		
Semester of study	6		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Dawid Rogoziński				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 30.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		0.0		20.0	50
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to introduce students to the use of film as a tool for analysing and reflecting on law, the justice system, and legal professions. The course develops students' ability to critically assess representations of law in popular culture and to compare cinematic narratives with actual legal procedures, professional ethics, and the practice of legal professions. The course also aims to strengthen students' analytical, interpretative, and argumentative skills through discussion of selected film scenes, courtroom representations, roles of legal actors, and the social perception of law and lawyers.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
		Knowledge Knows the main ways in which law, the justice system, and legal professions are represented in film and popular culture. Understands the relationship between cinematic fiction and the actual functioning of legal systems, court procedures, and legal practice. Understands basic issues related to legal ethics, professional responsibility, argumentation, persuasion, and communication in legal practice. Recognises the social and cultural significance of media representations of law and lawyers. Skills Is able to critically analyse cinematic representations of law and court proceedings and identify their accuracy or differences in relation to legal practice. Is able to interpret selected film scenes using legal, social, and cultural perspectives. Is able to formulate arguments, present opinions, and participate in discussions concerning legal issues presented in films. Is able to identify ethical and professional dilemmas connected with legal professions. Social competences Understands the importance of critical and informed reception of media representations of law and the justice system. Demonstrates readiness to reflect on the role of lawyers, professional responsibility, and the social dimension of law. Appreciates the importance of communication, storytelling, and effective presentation of arguments in legal practice.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written [SK5] implementation of a problem task
Subject contents	- Film as a source of knowledge about law and society – possibilities and limitations of using cinema in legal education. - The image of lawyers and legal professions in popular culture. - The courtroom in film – between dramatic fiction and procedural reality. - Analysis of selected trial scenes: argumentation, examination, evidence, legal rhetoric, and litigation strategies. - Judges, prosecutors, defence attorneys, legal representatives, and witnesses – cinematic representations of legal actors. - Professional ethics of lawyers in film narratives. - Cinematic representations of miscarriages of justice, wrongful convictions, and conflicts of values. - Law and emotions – the role of storytelling, persuasion, and image in courtroom perception. - Differences between legal systems presented in films (common law and civil law traditions). - Documentary and fiction films as methods of narrating legal issues. - Case studies inspired by real court proceedings. - Using film to develop professional competencies of future lawyers.		

Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	activity	51.0%	20.0%
	written exam	51.0%	70.0%
	attendance	51.0%	10.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	- Asimow, M., Silbey, J. (2020). <i>Law and Popular Culture: A Course Book</i>. 3rd ed. Vandeplas Publishing. Open academic version available through university repositories. - Greenfield, S., Osborn, G., Robson, P. (2010). <i>Film and the Law: The Cinema of Justice</i>. Oxford: Hart Publishing. - Machura, S., Robson, P. (eds.) (2001). <i>Law and Film</i>. Oxford: Blackwell. - White, J.B. (1985). <i>The Legal Imagination</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. - Sherwin, R.K. (2000). <i>When Law Goes Pop: The Vanishing Line Between Law and Popular Culture</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.	
	Supplementary literature	- Asimow M., Mader S., <i>Law and Popular Culture: A Course Book</i>, Peter Lang, New York 2013. - Bergman P., Asimow M., <i>Reel Justice: The Courtroom Goes to the Movies</i>, Andrews McMeel Publishing, Kansas City 1996. - Denvir J. (ed.), <i>Legal Reelism: Movies as Legal Texts</i>, University of Illinois Press, Urbana 1996. - Strickland R., Foster T.E., Banks W.C., <i>The Lawyer Myth: A Filmography of the Legal Profession</i>, William S. Hein & Co., 2002. - Cardozo B., <i>The Nature of the Judicial Process</i>, Yale University Press, New Haven 1921. - Posner R.A., <i>Law and Literature</i>, Harvard University Press, Cambridge 2009. - Sarat A., Douglas L., Umphrey M. (eds.), <i>Law and the Image: The Authority of Art and the Aesthetics of Law</i>, University of Chicago Press, 2003. - Sarat A., <i>When the State Kills: Capital Punishment and the American Condition</i>, Princeton University Press, 2001. - Asimow M., "Why Hollywood Gets the Law Wrong", materiały dotyczące prawa i kultury popularnej. - Silbey J., "The Legal Imagination in Film", materiały popularyzujące badania nad prawem i filmem. - Materiały edukacyjne: Oyez – Supreme Court Media – nagrania i materiały dotyczące realnych spraw sądowych w USA. The National Archives – Court Records and Legal History – materiały źródłowe dotyczące historii prawa.	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	nie dotyczy		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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