

Law and Popular Culture: A Course Book (by Michael Asimow and Jessica Silbey (3d edition 2020)). This book is intended for use in a class or seminar on law and popular culture. These are two subjects of great importance to everyone's life. The book can be used either in a graduate or undergraduate class anywhere in the world. It can be taught by any instructor interested in movies and television regardless of whether the teacher is a lawyer or an expert in film. The book suggests particular movies or television shows to be shown to students and used as the objects for study about law and lawyers as well as film theory and history and many other related subjects. Complimentary instructor's copies are available from the publisher (Vandeplas Publications). A detailed teacher's manual is available to any instructor interested in teaching the course. Just send Michael an email asimow@law.ucla.edu requesting the manual.

Praise for Law and Popular Culture: A Course Book

Law and Popular Culture combines film history, social history and legal issues in a readable and engaging way. Better still, the course Asimow and Mader propose will help any would-be lawyer to see his or her role in society in a more humane and responsible way. But best of all, this book and this course offers entertainment as well as enlightenment. I never wanted to be a lawyer, but if this course had been around when I was in college, I would happily have embraced it. —Richard Schickel, Film critic, *Time Magazine*, documentarian, and author of numerous books on film history and criticism.

Law and Popular Culture: A Course Book will become an instant classic. Focusing on exemplary films and television shows about law and lawyers, Asimow and Mader present insightful readings and interpretations of both their narrative and visual elements. This book provides a stellar example of the kind of intellectual excitement that can be generated in the classroom and a truly invaluable resource for teachers and students eager to explore the increasingly important connections of law and popular culture. —Austin Sarat, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Jurisprudence and Political Science, Amherst College, author of numerous works on law and society and law and popular culture.

In all cases [the authors] intersperse examination of the film with searching and far-reaching questions to guide the reader's thinking. These questions both guide and stimulate students in their study, always adding new material to the classroom and frequently directing the instructor into new fields of inquiry. What we have here is a first-class textbook that should serve as a model for more texts in fields of inquiry that feed on and in turn sustain popular culture. —Ray B. Browne, in *Journal of Popular Culture*

This course book is a terrific read and will be for readers a terrific resource. Even instructors who do not require it of their students should require it of themselves.
—William Haltom

Looking toward the law, Asimow and Mader use popular culture to illuminate such legal topics as constitutional rights, alternative legal systems, rules of ethics, and the actual daily life of lawyers. Looking toward movies, they use popular culture's handling of legal themes to elucidate such topics as genre, editing, and stylistic realism. This beating to and fro encourages an understanding of how the law affects popular culture (e.g. the Hayes Code) as well as how popular culture affects the law (e.g. who is attracted into the profession by popular culture's portrayal of lawyers). Most important, though, the book unlocks the semiotic possibilities of the intersection of law and popular culture for the students to explore. Douglas Goodman, review published in *Law & Social Inquiry*.

The book is not a typical law school case book. It is short, well written and of interest to the entire profession and to producers of popular culture about law because of the important issues the authors raise about the relationship between the two. —Andrew Shepard, review published in *New York Law Journal*

An understanding of the interrelationship between law and popular culture is key to shaping the future of law and justice in contemporary society. While a number of areas may reflect and influence popular culture, one of the most powerful is cinematic entertainment. The second edition of *Law and Popular Culture: A Course Book* retains all of its original brilliance as the guide for creating a graduate or undergraduate course focusing on how the portrayal of attorneys and the legal system in film and on television shapes public perception of lawyers, creates viewer expectations regarding law and justice, and may even influence the conduct of practicing attorneys and judges. --Taylor Simpson-Wood, Professor of Law, Barry University, Dwight O. Andreas School of Law

Law and Pop Culture is an excellent introduction to the legal system. The text is a comprehensive approach to law and popular culture that engages students as they seek to understand the laws and dynamic nature of society. I appreciate how the book is separated into legal information followed by film concepts. This structure appeals to all undergraduate students, not just those interested in law. With this book, I have been able to guide my students toward a deeper understanding of the legal system and our ever-changing society. --Debbie Shapiro, Augsburg College

Law and Popular Culture: A Course Book is a welcome addition to the teaching literature in this important and burgeoning field. It may be used as a primary or secondary text, with a concise introductory overview followed by analytical chapters on important individual films or television shows in the context of this dynamic field of study. This structure, together with thoughtful organization (initially by broad topic such as "the adversary system," and later by subject matter, either civil or criminal) facilitates teacher flexibility in which chapters to include and which films or television shows (or

substitutes) to assign for student viewing before each class. I highly recommend this book. --Donald Papy, Adjunct Faculty, University of Miami School of Law

While teaching an honors class on Law and Society, I found the Asimow—Mader book to be a constant source of quotable and relevant source material for classroom use. The chapters were especially nuanced in combining social science findings with insights from cinema studies. After retirement, I continue to find the chapters relevant in film lectures on legal themes to audiences of retirees. A second edition will make an original work only more relevant and up to date. —Edward Gross, University of Washington, Dep't of Sociology (emeritus)

Michael Asimow and Shannon Mader convincingly argue that popular representations of law are crucial to how people understand and perceive the legal system. This is an important, social constructionist insight that is not stressed often enough in law schools. The book is very well organized and shines in its emphasis on cinematic techniques, using films as illuminating case studies through which to more fully understand the American criminal and civil justice systems. The authors' cultural legal approach is exciting because it treats popular culture as just as worthy of study as the cases and statutes normally studied in law schools. This is the leading text for Law and Popular Culture courses – enjoy!—Dr. Jennifer L. Schulz, Associate Dean and Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba, Canada

Using both familiar (*Anatomy of a Murder*, *Twelve Angry Men*) and less known texts (*Counsellor at Law*, *Philadelphia*) from a variety of eras, *Law and Popular Culture* offers an excellent framework for introducing college students to the study of film and its pervasive influence on our understanding of the law and lawyers. Scholarly yet accessible, it works not only as an authoritative text on popular culture, but also as a clear and concise guide to understanding how our legal system functions, making it easily adaptable to diverse audiences, including freshmen students. The questions included at the end of each chapter work exceptionally well in generating spirited yet thoughtful class discussion and debate. —Gary Peter, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota