Law 1101/Introduction to Paralegal Studies/Coughlin/Spring 2022

ASSIGNMENT: "Law in Culture" Review! (5% of course grade, graded according to rubric below)

The purpose of this assignment is to analyze connections between a portrayal of the law in a cultural source (such as a book, film, television or podcast series) and what you learn in this program about how the law works in real life. **Gen Ed Student Learning Outcomes:** Knowledge—value knowledge, learning; show curiosity, desire to learn; Skills— communicate in diverse settings and groups, written and orally; derive meaning from experience, info from observation. This assignment has 4 parts:

- 1. Choose your cultural source! Select a book, film, television or podcast series, or other cultural source that portrays the law in some way. Each student must choose a different cultural source. Examples are infinite! They include murder mysteries, true crime stories, political commentaries, and many more. I can help you choose something!
- 2. Identify your source! By the end of <u>Thursday, September 15, 2022</u>, write a post on our course OpenLab site describing the source you've chosen, with "Law in Culture" as the category. Your post should include (a) the type of source (book, film, etc.), (b) its title, author (if appropriate), and year it was published, released, etc., and (c) a general description, as far as you can tell without having read or watched or listened to it yet. PLEASE NOTE: You may use online or other publicly-available summaries or reviews to help you write this post, because you have not yet read, viewed, or listened to your source; however, if you use outside materials, whether you quote them or not, <u>you must cite them</u>, and if you quote them, <u>you must put quotation marks</u> around any quoted language. If I conclude that, for any part of this or any assignment, you have used outside ideas or information without citing and quoting them properly, or you have committed any form of plagiarism or academic integrity violation, you will receive a zero for the entire assignment, and you may be reported to the College Academic Integrity Committee. Please see the Academic Integrity policies posted on OpenLab, under "Class notes & materials." If you are not sure if something constitutes a violation, feel free to ask me!
- **3.** Enjoy your source! (Hopefully.) Over the course of the semester, read, watch, or listen to your chosen cultural source! If it's a book, please read at least 150 pages; for a film (generally 1.5 to 3 hours), please watch the whole thing; if it's a television or podcast series, please watch or listen to at least 1.5 to 3 hours of episodes. As you do, consider how it reflects and compares to various topics we study in this course, or your other law courses.
- **4. Review your source!** By the end of <u>Thursday, December 1, 2022</u>, post a review of your source on OpenLab! Your review should include the following information, written in narrative (paragraph) form, not bullet points like below:
 - Information to help a reader locate your source: title, author (if appropriate), year of publication, release, etc., and anything else that would be useful.
 - Summary of the story or topic (at least 100 words).
 - How the source portrayed legal concepts addressed in this or other law courses, such as ethical practice of law, or how the government or court system works, or other concepts (at least 100 words).
 - Your reaction to what you read, watched, etc., such as: Did it accurately portray the legal field, and why? And/or would you recommend it, and why? And/or how it has affected your view of the law, or your interest in a legal profession, and why? And/or any other thoughtful response! (at least 100 words)

Rubric: "Law in Culture" Review Assignment	Good	Passable	Poor
Identification of source (due Sept. 15): Includes all requested information.	1	.50	0
For review due by Dec. 1:			
Summary: Shows that you read, watched or listened to the source attentively and			
thoughtfully; gives reader a thorough understanding of the source's topic.	1	.50	0
Course concepts: Identifies concepts from this or other law courses that were			
portrayed in the source, and explains how the source portrayed them.	1	.50	0
<u>Reaction</u> : Thoroughly explains your personal responses, with supporting examples			
from the source and reasons for your responses.	1	.50	0
Overall quality: Sufficient length and detail; reflects your original thoughts and			
ideas; shows careful analysis; well-written; makes sense; well-organized into	1	.50	0
complete sentences and paragraphs; proper grammar and spelling.			