THE COURSE: This colloquium will explore how American film-makers have portrayed the nation’s legal system, especially the role of lawyers, judges, and juries, in the period since World War II. In addition to viewing entire films in class together on Fridays, students are expected to do assigned readings each week either through electronic reserves at the Geisel Library website or by locating the assigned articles through Lexis-Nexis, also available in the library’s electronic database.

EXPECTATIONS: Missing three or more class sessions, without a bona fide medical or personal family excuse will result in a failing grade for the course. Students taking the course Pass/Fail must complete all assignments and receive a grade of C or better to pass. Ten percent of the course grade will be assessed on the basis of participation in class discussions about the films. Three short essays (no more than five pages each) will be due in the fourth, eighth and finals week; each worth 30% of the final course grade. The essays may be submitted through TURNITIN, with instructions to be provided.

FILMS AND READINGS

WEEK I: January 7-11
Film: Ox Bow Incident (1943)

WEEK II: January 14-18
Film: 12 Angry Men (1957)
WEEK III: January 21-25
Film: Anatomy of a Murder (1959)

WEEK IV: January 28-February 1
Film: To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)

WEEK V: February 4-8
Film: Cape Fear I (1962)

WEEK VI: February 11-15
Film: And Justice for All (1979)

WEEK VII: February 18-22
Film: The Accused (1988)

WEEK VIII: February 25-March 1
Film: Cape Fear II (1991)

WEEK IX: March 4-8
   Film: The Sweet Hereafter (1997)

WEEK X: March 11-15
   Film: Michael Clayton (2007)