UMKC SCHOOL OF LAW ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION
MINI TERM Spring 2008

COURSE NAME: Family Law & Film
CATALOG NUMBER: 8751F

PROFESSORS: Mary Kay Kisthardt, Mary Kay O’Malley, Barbara Glesner Fines, & June Carbone

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES:
None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES:
Courses relating to family law

COURSE BOOKS:
Readings and Films prepared by faculty.

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:
Pass/fail course. To receive credit, students must attend all classes, participate in discussions, and complete a final project.

The final project requires students to:
• choose a movie that raises issues relating to law and families
• Select an article, case, statutes or other readings that relate to those issues and summarize the reading
• Select one or more clips from the movie (indicate the time mark of the clip) and prepare three discussion questions relating to those clips
• Prepare sample answers to the discussion questions.
In all, we would expect this project to result in about a three-page paper.

Projects will be due Monday after miniterm.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
Popular culture and law. How movies shape our view of law and lawyers. Selected issues raised by the movies will be discussed.

COURSE CONTENT:
We will watch four movies:
The Good Mother (custody and child sexual abuse)
Two Weeks (death and dying)
War of the Roses (high conflict divorce)
Gattaca (genetic engineering)
Each movie will have a short reading assignment.