



HARCUM COLLEGE LIBRARY LODESTAR

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Library Lowdown: Resources for Legal Studies

The library has acquired some new resources to meet the needs of students in Harcum's **Center for Legal Studies**. These students, and others with an interest in law, criminal justice, or emergency management will benefit from the periodicals and books available in the library, and the web sites they can link to from our homepage.

New Periodicals:

American Police Beat is a monthly publication that calls itself "The voice of the nation's law enforcement community." It covers developments in important policing issues such as drug enforcement, DNA evidence, false IDs terrorism, and cyber crime, as well as topics relevant to the profession, including police recruitment and legal rulings that affect policing. **APB** also prints editorials, opinion pieces and feature articles highlighting the experiences of police personnel around the country.

Emergency Medical Services: *The Journal of Prehospital Care and Emergency Response*



is a monthly magazine designed to provide educational content and informed opinion for emergency medical technicians and para-

edics. Articles cover clinical issues, from respiratory distress to obstetrics, and professional topics, such as education, customer service, and legislative issues.

EMS also publishes essays, book reviews, and product information. Plus, they have an informative web site, **www.emsresponder.com**, where you can read top news stories, participate in online forums, and find web links to key news, education, and organizational sites for the EMS field.



The library plans to add two new publications in the legal studies field soon. Check back with us later this semester to learn more.

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Recent Books of Interest:

Law 101: Everything you need to Know About the American Legal System

If you need to know legal basics, you can find them here fast. Starting with sections that explain the constitutional

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ABOUT OUR NAME

A lodestar is any star that is used as a point of reference (like Polaris, the brightest star in the Little Dipper). The word can also refer to a guiding interest, principle or ambition. At Harcum College Library, we aim to guide members of the Harcum Community toward what is of interest to them and to serve as a "point of reference" for information seekers.

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Black History: Exhibit & Book Picks Honor Women

In honor of Black History Month, the library has mounted an exhibit in the rotunda about black women of distinction, featuring pictures, books and handouts. The exhibit has two major sections: one on women in the arts and one on distinguished civil rights leaders, with an emphasis on the late Coretta Scott King. The exhibit will run through February 28, and books included in the exhibit will be available for checkout after that date.

The death of Coretta Scott King on January 30 of this year has brought renewed attention to her life. For a brief synopsis of her accomplishments, come to the library for

a biographical hand-out. Did you know that in 1974, she co-founded the Full Employment Action Council? Or that in 1983 she led the Coalition of Conscience, a human rights demonstration in Washington, DC? You can learn more about her early life with Dr.

King, in her own words, by reading *My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.* (323. 40924. K53Y I969), published in 1969. She writes of the Montgomery bus boycott in the fifties, the Freedom Concerts at which she spoke and sang during the Sixties, and the work that she and her husband did to lead the anti-poverty and anti-war movements as they continued to struggle for civil rights.

To delve further back into the history of the civil rights movement, read *Rosa Parks: My Story* (976.I. P252 I992). Parks, who died in 2005, single-handedly started the bus boycott with an act of civil disobedience that landed her in jail. In her autobiography, she details her childhood in the segregated, violent South and describes her involvement in the civil rights movement both before and after her brave act of defiance.

The exhibit also features photographs and biographical vignettes of many dynamic and successful black women in entertainment and the arts, from literature to dance, from

movies to TV. Many notable African-American women in the arts and entertainment have used their talents to further the cause of civil rights and racial equality. During the 1930s, the great jazz singer, Billie Holiday, made *Strange Fruit*, a ballad about the lynching of a black man, her signature song. In *Strange Fruit: Billie Holiday, Café Society and the Cry for Civil Rights (782.4 M329)*, you can read the story of Holiday's controversial decision to sing the chilling ballad whenever she performed. The song, with the haunting lyrics that speak of "blood on the leaves and blood at the root" eventually became part of the repertoire of many other vocalists, bearing witness to a part of American history that is often forgotten.

Another powerful expression of the black American experience is the poem "A Black Woman Speaks..." The author, Beaula Richardson, was an actress (using the stage name Beah Richards) who appeared in the original cast production of *A Raisin in the Sun* and the movies *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* and *Beloved*. In the poem, Richardson addresses the troubled relationship between black and white women in the racist South. She shows compassion for the sexual inequality endured by white women, but asks them why they did not do more to fight injustice of all kinds. A copy of the poem is available as a handout at the exhibit.

As part of the exhibit, the library is staging a contest, challenging students to identify the photographs of ten African-American women who are accomplished in the fields of art and entertainment. First prize (a \$40 gift certificate to Borders Book Store) will go to the student who correctly identifies the most individuals. Entries are dated, so in the case of a tie, the winner will be the person who completed the contest first. There are nice second and third prizes, too; stop by the library to learn more and try the contest.



What's Up? Feast Your Eyes on the Art in the Library Rotunda

Let your eyes rove around the circle of the library rotunda. You'll discover that above the reference shelves are a series of beautiful paintings that deserve a second look (or more). Even though they vary tremendously in medium, style and subject, they are all by the same artist, Prof. Martin Zipin, who was on the faculty at Harcum for 38 years.

You may have noticed other paintings by Prof. Zipin, both in the library and elsewhere on campus. An Amish farmer rides his cart toward a windmill under a spacious blue sky, just above the reference desk. Behind the circulation desk, three hikers perch on a massive pile of multi-hued rocks. As you leave the cafeteria in Klein Hall, you may notice a pair of formal portraits of Philip and Esther Klein. All of these paintings are Zipin's.

Harcum College is extremely fortunate to have these tangible reminders of Marty Zipin's legacy at Harcum. Prof. Zipin taught painting and sculpture, chaired the art department, and was "artist-in-residence" at Harcum for 38 years (from 1953-1991). He also did much more: he was faculty advisor to the student newspaper, performed in theatrical productions, and took his students on field trips to the New Jersey shore to sketch the evocative landscape there.

As a young man, Zipin studied art at Temple University's Tyler School. While there, he became involved in theater, not only designing sets but also acting and singing in lead roles. He completed bachelors' degrees in fine arts and education and a master of fine arts degree from Temple. Zipin went on to create his own painting style, which he dubbed "the positive image." He painted objects, often on a textured surface like burlap, and then cut out the images to achieve a three-dimensional effect. The library has three paintings in this style on display, including the depiction of a rack hung with sweaters and hats pictured here. The viewer can get quite close to this painting before seeing that it is not three-dimensional. Current Harcum professor, Marty Ranft, who knew Zipin well as a colleague and a friend, says that Zipin was famous for his varied collection of hats (which he loved to wear, especially berets). Ranft also remembers Zipin's love of making pancakes for friends and painting by the sea.

Another very effective use of the positive image style can be seen in the rotunda in Zipin's painting of a steep city street, depicting the Manayunk section of Philadelphia.

This cutout oil painting is long and narrow, and perfectly captures the vertical quality that the neighborhood is known for. Zipin also did hundreds of portraits and many self-portraits. He had many one-man shows, received a number of awards from local art institutions, and sold his work to museums, galleries and colleges around the country.

One of Zipin's most impressive achievements as a teacher was his supervision of twenty years' worth of topical murals that his students created. Starting in 1968, his students designed and painted one mural a year, representing events and people of the time, from the Vietnam War to the Move bombing in 1985, from celebrities to characteristic types of the day. The students made all the decisions about content, and though each mural would be supervised by one student, it was created by many. These murals were done by students on a strictly volunteer basis, not for course credit. Even so, Professor Zipin never had difficulty finding students who wanted to work on them.



Zipin's cut-outs create a convincing fool-the-eye effect

The first mural (for 1968) boldly represented peace, justice and racial harmony, with the scales of justice in the background and a dove of peace in the foreground. The 1972 mural used a collage-like effect to include images of the devalued U.S dollar (with a band-aid on it), the bars of Attica prison (the site of violent riots), and the moon being visited by a stylized "space buggy." In 1980, hands grasped in peace across the Sinai celebrated the Camp David peace pact between Israel and Egypt, while in the background images depict the Three-Mile Island nuclear power plant alongside a solar power collector. The mural for 1987, presents a stark contrast, as an imposing Statue of Liberty celebrates her one-hundredth birthday with colorful fireworks and the smoke of the destroyed Challenger spacecraft lights up the night sky.

A number of these murals are still hanging in the cafeteria in Klein Hall. If you don't see them, just move aside the curtains hanging over the windows that overlook Montgomery Avenue. The library also has a book in the archival files, containing reproductions of each mural. You are welcome to look at the book on library premises. Just let library director, Carol Puchalski, know that you're interested in seeing it. In the meantime, the next time you are studying or reading in the library, look around. Zipin's beautiful, imaginative art is the perfect way to give your eyes a break.

Resources for Legal Studies (continued)



basis of the U.S. legal system and outline fundamental constitutional rights, this book continues with topics involving criminal, civil, injury, property, and business law and procedures. In the area of criminal law, the author defines terms and discusses the concepts of guilt, defendants' rights, self-defense, insanity, plea bargaining, juries, and sentencing. **349.73. F299 2000**

A Violent Heart: Understanding Aggressive Individuals

The author is a psychologist who studies how biology, family, social experiences and culture combine to create people who exhibit aggression and violence in their lives. He examines different types of aggressive and violent people, from violent children to gang members, from abusive spouses to mass murderers, from hired killers to people who succumb to road rage. For each one of these categories, the author discusses personality factors, motivations, and the circumstances of the violent acts. The book includes many detailed case examples, taken from real life. **303.6. M695 2002**

Prisons in America: A Reference Handbook

This book is one of the *Contemporary World Issues* volumes, which are carefully organized overviews of current issues, designed to help readers find important background information and facts fast. It provides a history of prisons in America, from the first penitentiaries to the present. It then summarizes the

key issues and problems of prison policy, including mandatory sentencing, prisoners' rights, women in prison, prison overcrowding, and violence in prison. Readers can also find excerpts from the constitution that relate to prisoners and summaries of key prisoners' rights cases of the twentieth century. **365. R139 1999**

Sensible Justice: Alternatives to Prison

The author, a journalist, spent a year visiting programs around the country that provide alternatives to prison for criminal offenders of various sorts. Alternatives include community service, house arrest and "boot camp." He also visited programs that are designed specifically for sex offenders and for drug addicts. In his introduction, he describes the need for such alternatives and in his final chapter, he summarizes his conclusions about their effectiveness. **365.973. A546 1999**

Internet Resources:

From the Harcum College Library homepage at www.harcum.edu/library, you can link to a wide variety of excellent web pages in the areas of law and criminal justice. Just click "***criminal justice***" in the list of reference topics to the left of the homepage screen. Many topics are covered, and most topics contain more than one web site you can visit for information. Subjects range from police, prisons, sentencing, and probation to gun control, victim assistance, unsolved crimes, and forensics.

You can read about Pennsylvania's "most wanted" criminals at www.pacrimestoppers.org, read about the history, characteristics and functioning of street gangs at www.gangsorus.org, or learn about the Violence Policy Center's efforts to reduce gun violence at www.vpc.org. Also on the resource list are some web sites that provide very basic information: a criminal law glossary, a collection of "drug war facts" that summarize information about different substances of abuse, and a listing of law enforcement jobs.

Legal issues affect us all. Use the library's resources to investigate further!

Library Vital Statistics

How to Contact us

Harcum College Library
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Phone: 610-526-6085
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Library Hours for 2006

Monday-Thursday: 8 am to 10 pm
Friday: 8 am to 4:30 pm
Saturday: noon to 4 pm
Sunday: 1 pm to 5 pm, 6 pm to 9 pm