

**CTCS 494: Advanced Cinema and Media Studies Seminar
Law and Society in the Entertainment Industry**



Why do private equity firms refuse to allow Taylor Swift to perform some of her fans' most beloved songs?

What does the battle between Epic Games, Fortnite, and Apple mean for the future of gaming?

Will Hollywood inclusion riders create gender parity?

The entertainment industry continually finds itself in conflict over contracts, copyright, censorship, antitrust, labor, and all the ramifications that legal regimes create. This class will explore what it means to understand and advocate when dealing with law in Hollywood and beyond. By examining how the law operates in culture, society, and industry, we will deconstruct the disputes that animate media and tech industries today. Learning how to analyze and understand these cases, we will explore the differences between laws as written and how they operate while reflecting on what lawyers do and how they think. We will become court watchers, investigating briefs and opinions, and examining how the judiciary conceives of Hollywood and Silicon Valley either differently or similarly to other industries. And finally, we will learn how to explain these issues to the public, working on op-eds that digest these issues and present them cogently beyond our classroom walls.