

Indian law school offers course on Harry Potter universe

Students at an Indian law school are preparing to study the enslavement of house **elves**, discrimination against **werewolves** and conditions inside Azkaban.

elf 小精灵

werewolf 狼人

This December, the National University of **Juridical** Sciences in Kolkata will run its first classes on the legal principles of the Harry Potter universe.

juridical 司法的; 法院的

The course, entitled An Interface Between Fantasy Fiction Literature and Law: Special Focus on Rowling's Potterverse, is the creation of Shouvik Kumar Guha, an assistant professor. Those enrolled are "expected [to] have already read all the books at least twice, if not more".

The curriculum asks senior students to apply both Indian and **wizardry** legal principles to topics such as the "unforgivable curses" ---torture, murder and possession of another person --- the rules of the broomstick sport **Quidditch** and an **alleged** murder by Sirius Black.

wizardry 巫术; 魔法

Quidditch 魁地奇

alleged 所谓的; 声称的

Along with breaking up the study of stodgier legal subjects, the course is also intended to encourage students to **think critically** about Indian social problems.

think critically 批判性思考

Discrimination, torture and slavery are still **endemic** problems in many parts of India. How India's **Hindu** majority should regard the country's substantial minorities is a major Fault-line, echoing a debate in the books about how wizards ought to exist **alongside muggles** --- people without magical abilities.

endemic 地方性流行

Hindu 印度人; 印度教教徒

alongside 在...旁边

muggle 麻瓜

“Our students believe the discrimination voiced in the Potter-verse is something they all agree is wrong. But in real life there will be things that some see as discrimination and which others do not.”

The course will examine how, in the novels, creatures such as elves, centaurs and giants are **marginalized** in **mainstream** society and how the Daily Prophet newspaper becomes an outlet for official propaganda.

marginalized 被边缘化的

mainstream 主流

“Then they can see when they encounter scenarios in the real world, maybe it will help them think a little bit,” Kumar said.