Discussion Questions for Thursday, April 26th

The Common Place of Law (chapter four)

1. Each of the three visions of legality set out by the authors (for a summary see page 28), is defined according to four categories: Normativity, Constraint, Capacity, and Time & Space. First of all, what do they mean by these terms? Don’t just copy their words. Come up with your own way of defining and describing their ideas in your own language.
   a. Normativity

   b. Constraint

   c. Capacity

   d. Time & Space

2. Use the grid on the other side of this sheet to describe the “Before the Law” vision of legality as it pertains to each of these categories.

3. Storytelling is central to how the authors developed their theory in this book. Think of a story that you can tell – either from your own life, from another’s life, from television, literature, etc. – that would fall under the “Before the Law” category. What about this story reflects the “Before the Law” vision of legality? Don’t simply record the story. ANALYZE it, as you think Ewick and Silbey would.
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*The Common Place of Law (chapter four)*

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Introduction to Legal Studies
Spring 2007

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