

Course Syllabus

Course Information

PSCI 4396-HN1

Selected Topics in Government and Politics - Workshop on Innocence I
Fall 2016

Professor Contact Information

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Office hours by appointment only.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Permission of the instructor. Since this is a Collegium V course, CV students have a preference in being admitted to the course. Students may take this course for a maximum of two semesters.

Course Description

Working with the Innocence Project of Texas, students will review cases records to determine if a convicted person's case should receive further review by a Project attorney. The key standard is whether there is possibly a legitimate claim of innocence that can be proven in reference to the convicted person's claim.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students should expect:

1. To develop and ability to make oral presentations and to respond to questioning;
 2. To gain an understanding of sources of error in major criminal cases; and,
 3. To learn to read and analyze court records.
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Required Textbooks and Materials

1. Book Title: Chasing Justice: My Story of Freeing Myself after Two Decades on Death Row for a Crime I Didn't Commit
Author: Kerry Max Cook
ISBN: 9780060574659
2. Book Title: The Innocent Man
Author: John Grisham
ISBN: 9780440243830

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Aug. 25—Introduction and Organization of the Course

September 1, 8, 15, 22—Casework

September 29—Discussion of Chasing Justice – PAPERS DUE

September 29 & October 6, 13 and 20—Casework

October 27—Discussion of the Innocent Man – PAPERS DUE

November 3—Casework

November 10—NO CLASS

November 17 – Casework

November 24—NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Holiday ☺

December 1 – Case Memo Drafts Due in Class

*****Final Memo drafts due before end of finals period (December 15)****

Grading Policy

50% of your grade will come from your team project which will be an oral discussion of and written report on the issues presented in the prisoner petitions that you will review.

25% of your grade will come from a written 10pp. double spaced book report that you will write on your own about Chasing Justice.

25% of your grade will come from a written 10pp. double spaced book report that you will write on your own about The Innocent Man.

A—Excellence in written work and oral discussion

B—Very Good in written work and oral discussion

C—Satisfactory in written work and oral discussion

D—Unsatisfactory in written work and oral discussion

F—Exceedingly poor performance in written work and oral discussion

Course & Instructor Policies

I do expect that you will regularly attend the Thursday night sessions. More than two unexcused absences will result in oral feedback that will suggest a lower grade for poor attendance.

Comet Creed

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.