

Course Syllabus

Course Information

PSCI 4396-HN1

Selected Topics in Government and Politics - Workshop on Innocence II
Spring 2017

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) Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption
by Bryan Stevenson
ISBN: 9780812984965
- 2) Convicting the Innocent: Where Criminal Prosecutions Go Wrong
by Brandon L. Garrett
ISBN: 9780674066113

Assignments & Academic Calendar

January 12—Introduction and Organization of the Course

January 19, 26 & February 2, 9—Casework

February 16—Discussion of **Just Mercy** – PAPERS DUE

February 23 & March 2, 9—Casework

March 16—SPRING BREAK!!!

March 23—Casework

March 30—Discussion of **Convicting the Innocent** – PAPERS DUE

April 6, 13, 20—Casework

April 27—Case Memo Drafts Due in Class

*****Final Memo drafts due before end of finals period (May 8)****

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 Just Mercy.

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

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 that 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.