

DEATH PENALTY CLINIC: SYLLABUS FALL 2017

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Please be advised that the Texas Innocence Network office (located at Krost Hall 203) is generally open from 8:00–5:00 Monday–Thursday. *However, unless students have scheduled a specific appointment, we reserve the right to be out of the office at any time for meetings/investigations/etc. and the office lobby may be closed.*

COURSE INFORMATION

Death Penalty Clinic explores the substantive law, investigative techniques, and post-conviction appellate remedies applicable in capital (death penalty) and non-capital cases. Lectures will cover topics such as: Texas criminal statutes, state/federal habeas law, clemency proceedings, investigative techniques, and capital trial strategy.

In addition to attending lectures, students work on actual cases. Students investigate claims related to the guilt/innocence and punishment phases of capital murder trials and assist attorneys in investigating and researching legal claims. Death Penalty Clinic students work solely on cases where a criminal defendant has been convicted of capital murder and sentenced to death. In many of these cases, the defendant has a pending execution date. Consequently, it is essential that Death Penalty Students adhere to deadlines set by the course instructor(s).

TEXT/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Materials will be made available via in class and/or via e-mail.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

Pursuant to UH Law policy, you must attend at least eleven (11) of the fourteen (14) regularly scheduled classes (*i.e.* – 80%). Class will be held on Tuesdays from 4:00–6:00 117 TUII. Breakout sessions will be held after the main lecture in 119 TUII. In the highly unlikely event a make-up class is necessary, it will be scheduled in accordance with UHLC policy on September 8, October 6, or November 3, 2017.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS/GRADING

Grades will be based on the quality of student work performed during the semester and class participation.

A total of 120 hours (including class time, meetings, etc.) must be spent on work performed for Death Penalty Clinic. As part of the required 120 hours, you must attend classes, complete class assignments/case work, submit a timesheet in Excel format, and return all case files. “Billing” takes place in .25 hour increments. In addition, you must submit a final memo, detailing the work that you performed over the course of the semester.

Your timesheet and all assignments are due by 5 pm on Monday, December 18, 2017.

At any point in the semester, if you foresee having difficulty reaching 120 hours, please contact Professor Jeu immediately. She will work with you on reaching a mutually amenable solution that adheres to university requirements. Failure to complete the 120 hours will result in an incomplete or failing grade.

In accordance with UHLC policy, the ordinarily applicable weighted average for this class will be between 2.8 – 3.2. This weighted average is ordinarily applicable for classes with fewer than ten students and mandatory for classes with ten or more students. For additional information regarding UHLC’s official policies with respect to grading in general, please refer to the UHLC student handbook.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS) AVAILABILITY

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. (http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html)

<i>Class Date</i>	<i>Class Discussion *</i>	<i>Assignment Due</i>
August 22, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class introduction • Confidentiality / TDCJ forms • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
August 29, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEDPA • Investigation presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA
September 5, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Habeas – drafting & claims • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA
September 12, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clemency • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA
September 19, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Evidence – Part I • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA
September 26, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Evidence – Part II • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA
October 3, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 64 • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA
October 10, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appellate Advocacy – Part I • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA
October 17, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appellate advocacy – Part II • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA
October 24, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Law & legal ethics • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA
October 31, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews & Affidavits • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA
November 7, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes of Wrongful Convictions • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA
November 14, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal procedure: Arrest to trial • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA
November 22, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital vs. non-capital trial strategy • End of semester procedures • Case meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case assignments TBA