

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

COURSE SYLLABUS

LAW 6374 – 22075 | Spring 2020

Instructor

Carmen Roe

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Office Location

TBD

Office Hours

By appointment only

Course Overview

This upper-level class will focus on state criminal appellate procedure, with emphasis placed on the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure and, where applicable to state appellate practice, the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. This will be a lecture course on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00PM-5:30PM. The class number is 22075.

Required Text

Myron Moskovitz, *Winning an Appeal*

Required Material

Must watch three videos by the end of March. Each video is roughly one to two hours long. You can access all three videos online for free.

Michael Morton - An Unreal Dream

- https://tubitv.com/movies/435793/an_unreal_dream
- Also available for free on Amazon Prime

Hannah Overton - Until Proven Innocent

- <https://vimeo.com/145283367> (password = Hannah)

Anthony Graves - 48 Hours

- <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/students-help-free-wrongfully-convicted-man-22-06-2011/>

Recommended Material

Michael Morton, *Getting Life: An Innocent Man's 25-Year Journey From Prison to Peace*

Anthony Graves, *Infinite Hope: How Wrongful Conviction, Solitary Confinement, and 12 Years on Death Row Failed to Kill My Soul*

Course Assignments

Class Discussion and Participation

You will be graded on how much you participate in the class discussion. A max of 70 points will be earned for participation points. (5X14 classes = 70 points).

Lead Class Discussion

From week 4 until week 8, students will be assigned to lead a class discussion. Each student should choose a recent case from either the Court of Criminal Appeals or one of the Court of Appeals. The case should involve some interesting procedural issues. The student will explain to the class why the case is important and walk the class through the facts and holding. Each presentation will take approximately 5 minutes.

Writing Assignment

One writing assignment will be assigned based on a fact pattern provided to you. You will be asked to write one appellate issue (point of error) including argument and authority. Then, you will be asked to make an oral argument on your appellate issue. The paper must be double spaced, 14-point type, Times New Roman, one-inch margins on all sides, and left justified.

Oral Argument Presentation

An oral argument presentation will be done based on your writing assignment. The presentation needs to be at least 10 minutes long and cannot exceed 15 minutes. There will not be a rebuttal argument.

Attendance Policy

The Law Center has a minimum 80% attendance policy for students. Any student who attends fewer than the minimum percentage of classes may be dropped from the class.

Late Work

If a student intends to turn in any assignment late, the professor must be contacted in advance stating the submission will be late.

Final Exam

Only one exam will be administered throughout the course. It is a take home exam and will be open book. You will have 24 hours to complete the exam. You can start the exam no earlier than April 28th at 9AM and will have 24 hours to complete it once you have started. The exam is due by May 7th at 3PM.

Grading Policy

This class classifies as a small class, and for small classes the grading is as follows: (11-20), & LSS 2.8 - 3.2 Mandatory.

BE AWARE: Not everyone in this class will receive an A, as this class is subject to the mandatory curve. For more information about grading at UHLC, see the Student Handbook.

Your grade will be based on the following:

Assignment	Points
Class Discussion	70
Lead Class Discussion	25
Writing Assignment	30
Oral Argument Presentation	25
Final Exam	100
Total	250

CAPS:

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