

Course: 5218/12623 Human Trafficking Law-Spring 2026 TH 5:30–7:30

Instructor: Sherri L. Zack

CONTENT: This class will focus on human trafficking and related state, federal, and international responses to what is now commonly referred to as modern day slavery. We will cover legal and public awareness measures being taken to prevent, deter, and respond to human trafficking, including the social service organizations that are critical to restoring victims and preparing witnesses in trafficking cases. The class will begin by focusing on the legal definitions and framework of trafficking and move to an historical overview of state and federal laws passed to address trafficking offenses, involving both U.S. citizens and immigrants placed into labor servitude or the commercial sex trade. The Trafficking Victim's Protection Act and its reauthorizations will be covered along with the visas and witness issues that are common with trafficking victims. We will closely cover the federal statutes and the case law that interprets those statutes, including pre-TVPA slavery, involuntary servitude, Mann Act, forced labor, international sex trafficking, sex tourism, domestic minor sex trafficking, private civil actions, restitution, and forfeiture. During the class you will see how this framework guides the United States' effort to combat human trafficking in both domestic and international forms. There will be guest speakers periodically invited to class to make presentations on actual cases prosecuted in Houston, domestic cults, victim services relating to Visas, and civil suits brought by victims.

*The views expressed during class by the professor do not necessarily reflect the views of her employer.

GRADE: The grade in this case will be based on a research paper of the student's own choosing that critically examines a human trafficking topic related to class. The paper topic must be approved by the professor in advance. The paper must be no less than 15 and no more than 20 pages, double-spaced, 14 point font. I will provide additional guidance on the format and content during the class. Attendance and participation will comprise 10% of your grade. The paper will comprise the remaining 90% of your grade.

ATTENDANCE: All classes will be face to face and in person. The law school mandates that you attend 80% of the classes. You must comply with this requirement. Attendance will be taken each class.

PARTICIPATION: The class will be more beneficial to all if you participate in discussions and make a good faith effort to read all of the materials. This will also improve your grade.

OFFICE HOURS:

Please email me at sherri.zack@huschblackwell.com for an appointment or to discuss any issues raised in class. I will meet with students in person before or after class as needed. Feel free to e-mail at the above provided e-mail address.

READING: The text for this course is Human Trafficking Law and Policy by Carr, Milgram, Kim, and Warnath 2020. You are expected to read the required chapters, paying particular attention to the cases listed, and come prepared to discuss at class. If additional reading is assigned you will be responsible for reading that material prior to the specified date. There may also be suggested reading which would be optional but recommended. Reading assignments may also be moved around to accommodate speakers' availability.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): 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. See: http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html.

Course Schedule and Readings — Order is subject to change.

Class #1: January 22

Chapter 1 - Slavery

Scott v. Sandford (1857)

United States v. Ah Sou (1905)

Class #2: January 29

Chapter 2 — Peonage

Bailey v. Alabama, 219 U.S. 219 (1911)

United States v. Reynolds, 235 U.S. 133 (1914)

Class #3: February 5

Chapter 3 — Involuntary Servitude

The pre-TVPA era from Peonage to the Mann Act (1910 to 2000).

United States v. Ingalls, 73 F.Supp. 76 (S.D. Cal. 1947) United States v. Shackney, 333 F.2d 475 (2nd Cir. 1964)

United States v. Mussry, 726 F.2d 1448 (9th Cir. 1984)

United States v. Kozminski, 487 U.S. 931 (1986)

Class #4: February 12

Chapter 4 — Immigration Statutes and the Mann Act

Hoke v. United States, 227 U.S. 308 (1913)

Caminetti v. United States, 242 U.S. 470 (1917)

Class #5: February 19

Chapter 5 - Trafficking Victims' Protection Act (TVPA)

TVPA of 2000 and the 9 reauthorizations to date

United States v. Kaufman, 546 F.3d 1242 (10th Cir. 2011)

Class #6: February 26

Chapters 6-8

The Palermo Protocol, An International and Legal Policy Framework, and

Corporate Accountability and Federal Contractors

Forced Labor - a global economy — Corporate Liability & Civil Litigation

Class #7: March 5

Chapter 12 — Immigration Related Protections for Victims of Trafficking

Continued Presence and the T-visa

Comparison of the challenges posed by international victims v. domestic victims

Challenges with providing direct services to victims

Forced Labor/Immigration Guest Speaker Kate Langston — Diplomatic Security Service

Class #8: March 12

Chapters 9-10 Anti-Trafficking Agencies and Organizations and Federal Criminal Prosecutions

United States. Bradley, 390 Fed 145 (1st Cir. 2004)

United States v. Calimlim, 538 F.3d 706 (7th Cir. 2008)

United States v. Pipkins, 378 F.3d 1281 (1st Cir. 2004)

Class #9: March 26

Domestic cults in the name of religion — the Zion Ranch — a view from the inside

Class #10: April 2

Local Perspective on Domestic Sex Trafficking — Guest Speakers

United States v. Jaimian Sims, 11 F.4th 315 (5th Cir. 2021) - Students will have to read this case on their own — it is not included in the materials.

Class #11: April 9

Chapter 14 — Special Issues Related to Specific Trafficked Populations

State Statutes and legislative efforts to Combat Trafficking

Analysis of State Human Trafficking Laws _In

Re B.W. 313 S.W.3d 818 (Tex. 2010)

Class #12: April 16

Restitution and forfeiture — 18 USC Sections 1593 and 1594

Chapter 11 — Civil Litigation

Class #13: April 23

Chapter 13 — Theoretical and Definitional Challenges

Continued Presence and the T-visa

Comparison of the challenges posed by international victims v. domestic victims

Challenges with providing direct services to victims

Class #14: April 30

Discussion about papers and evaluations

The Use of Artificial Intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) is prohibited in this course. Thus, using AI or AI-generated text for formal assessments (such as your midterm or final exams), informal assessments (such as drafting essay answers to hypothetical problems), extra credit assignments, or group or individual exercises and activities is not permitted. This prohibition includes any work product created for this course that is submitted to the instructor, a tutor, or presented in a class session. This prohibition applies whether the material is to be graded or ungraded. This prohibition applies whether the assessment, assignment, exercise, or activity is prepared in or outside of class. Your writings for this course are to be your own work composed without the aid of AI.

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct

Pursuant to the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can

make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible to its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment, or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the website at <https://uh.edu/accessibility/>, by calling (713) 743-5400, or by emailing jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU.

Recording of Classes Not Permitted

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make or distribute screen captures without the advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. If you have an accommodation to record class related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. The instructor may record classes. Students may use the instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Security Escorts and Cougar Ride

UHPD continually works with the University community to make the campus a safe place to learn, work, and live. The security escort service is designed for the community members who have safety concerns and would like to have a Security Officer walk with them, for their safety, as they make their way across campus. Based on availability either a UHPD Security Officer or Police Officer will escort students, faculty, and staff to locations beginning and ending on campus. If you feel that you need a Security Officer to walk with you for your safety, please call 713-743-3333. Arrangements may be made for special needs. Parking and Transportation Services also offers a late-night, on-demand shuttle service called "Cougar Ride" that provides rides to and from all on-campus shuttle stops, as well as the MD Anderson Library, Cougar Village/Moody Towers and the UH Technology Bridge. Rides can be requested through the UH Go app. Days and hours of operation can be found at <https://uh.edu/af-universityservices/parking/cougar-ride/>.