COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the Illinois Innocence Project Externship at SIU Law in partnership with the Illinois Innocence Project (IIP) at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS). As a law extern, you are a vital part of the work to assist the wrongfully convicted in Illinois. You will assist IIP attorneys in actual innocence cases and potential cases while learning about the causes and remedies of wrongful convictions.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Gain knowledge and familiarity with post-conviction and criminal law.
2. Gain knowledge and expertise in the most common causes of wrongful convictions, including, but not limited to: eyewitness misidentification, false confessions, junk science, government misconduct, perjury or snitches, and ineffective assistance of counsel.
3. Gain a familiarity with the science of DNA and post-conviction testing statutes.
4. Understand the ethics of legal representation of the indigent criminal defendant.
5. Develop skills in interviewing witnesses, clients, and members of the legal community.
6. Develop legal-writing skills, including drafting of post-conviction motions, memoranda, and petitions.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

1) Grades: The externship is graded on a modified Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scale (S+, S, S-, U) based on your individual meeting, journal, presentation, work product, and hours completion (see below for explanations of each).

2) Individual Meeting: There is one required individual meeting with your professor to discuss your progress and case work at mid-semester (March 3, 2017). Please be prepared to show the work you have done and provide next steps for your case. (Of course, I am available for other meetings, calls, and emails).

3) Journal: You must turn in a mid-semester journal and hours. You must also submit a final journal with your final hours. Your journal should be an ongoing reflection of your experience working on potential actual innocence claims. It should not be a short summary at the end of the semester. Use this assignment to track what work you have done and how, if at all, your perception of the justice system has been altered. Turn this in on TWEN in the assignment drop box.

4) Presentations: Each student will select a text/book from the attached list and prepare a 10-minute presentation utilizing visual aids (power point, poster, handouts) to explain the wrongful conviction contained in the chosen/assigned book and the cause of the wrongful conviction. Include updates on the status of the case and any reforms in that state or nationally to remedy the cause of the wrongful conviction.
5) **Work product:** As assigned by your supervising attorney. This may include case evaluations, memoranda, motions for DNA testing, evidence Matrix, post-conviction petitions, research memos, etc.

6) **Hours:** The American Bar Association standards for accrediting law schools contains requirements for field placement and clinic work credit. One credit is equivalent to 42.5 hours per credit. Those hours can be spent in class, working on cases, preparing for class, and taking an exam.* Below I have described the breakdown of the credits for this class.

To complete the course for 3 academic credits, students must complete 127.5 extern hours. For 2 credits, you must complete 85 hours. 1 credit requires 42.5 hours. **Hours must be documented to the IIP and to SIU.**

There are 13 weeks in this externship: January 20 – April 28 with one week subtracted for Spring Break. Therefore, you should average 3.3 hours a week if you are taking the externship for 1 credit, 6.54 hours a week for 2 credits, and 9.81 hours a week for 3 credits.

You will fulfill those hours as follows. We will spend three 2-hour blocks together for in-person class and two 2-hour online classes. That comes out to 10 hours of classroom instruction. Readings assigned for the online & independent classes will total 2 hours per class. That brings you to 14 hours. We will meet individually once for an hour. That takes you to 15 hours each. You should spend about 30 minutes a week to reflect in your journal, totaling 6.5 hours for the semester. You are now at 21.5 hours. It will vary how long it takes you to read your chosen book/text, depending on your reading speed and the length of the book, but I expect it will run you about 5-8 hours. The presentation should take you another 4-6 hours to research the issue and prepare a visual aid and the substance of the presentation. You are now between 30.5 and 35.5 hours.

Additionally, you will be spending time on “extern hours,” that is, working on your cases. This includes case review, case evaluation, client and witness interviews, client visits and calls, drafting memoranda, discussions with attorneys, drafting motions and petitions, etc.

*For an explanation of the ABA standards, see*
** Report your hours to SIU via TWEN on the SIU form provided on TWEN. Hours are scheduled to be reported every month. Please complete the form and upload it. Do not just input into the text box.
Hours are also reported to the IIP via a spreadsheet and email. Kiran Desai will provide further information on this reporting.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:**

1) We will be using a **TWEN course** for discussion boards, reading materials, and videos. Assignments for the independent & online classes will be posted there.

2) Each student will select a text/book from the attached list.

3) Additional Suggested Reading:
   a. Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson
   b. Unfair: The New Science of Criminal Injustice by Adam Benforado

4) Case documents and materials provided on Google Drive.

**SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Class 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time:</th>
<th>January 20, 2017, 1:30 – 3:30pm</th>
<th>Room 103</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Topics covered:** Case Assignments/overview of syllabus/discussion regarding texts individually selected.

**DUE:** January 18, 2017 -- Sign up for your selected text/book on TWEN.
### Class 2

**Date/Time:** February 17, 2017  
**Online & Independent Class**  
**Topics covered:** TWEN discussion regarding chosen book: report to class what subject matter and causes of wrongful conviction is covered or explained.  
**DUE:** February 17, 2017 -- Read chosen book; sign up for presentation slot on TWEN.

### Class 3

**Date/Time:** March 3, 2017  
**Room 103**  
**Topics Covered:** Meet individually with me to discuss cases. Sign up on TWEN.  
**DUE:** March 10, 2017 – Submit midterm journal.

### Class 4

**Date/Time:** March 31, 2017  
**Online & independent class**  
**Topics covered:** Preparing cases for post-conviction litigation  
**DUE:** Readings and online discussion to be assigned on TWEN.

### Class 5

**Date/Time:** April 14, 2017, 1:30-3:30pm  
**Room 103**  
**Topics covered:** First half of class will present on their chosen texts.

### Class 6

**Date/Time:** April 28, 2017, 1:30-3:30pm  
**Room 103**  
**Topics covered:** Second half of class will present on chosen texts.
*There will be a Spring IIP Fundraiser in Springfield. Attendance is not mandatory, but it is a great way to meet exonerees and the other members of the IIP. Date TBA.

**The annual Innocence Network Conference is held March 24-25, 2017, in San Diego, CA. There may be funds for travel from the Dean’s office if you inquire and a student rate for the conference.

***We are trying to plan an event at SIU with an exoneree. We will need your assistance and attendance at the event. Date TBA.

**POLICIES**

**Attendance and Absences:** Students are expected to attend every class and participate in the online discussion boards for the online & independent classes. Since the class does not meet often, it is crucial that you attend. If you have an emergency, please let me know in advance. Missing two classes will result in a drop in your grade (S to S-, for example).

It is even more important that you complete any tasks assigned by your attorney in a timely manner. The attorneys are counting on your work to move the case along and help to free innocent and potentially innocent people from prison.

**Visual and Audio Recording:** Students may record (visual or audio) a class instruction for personal use only with consent of the instructor. Students are not authorized to distribute, share, or publicize any recording made of any class instruction. Further, all materials regarding clients and potential clients of the Illinois Innocence Project are subject to the contract you sign at the start of the externship as well as the Rules of Professional Conduct. Students are not authorized to make any visual or audio recordings without the express consent of the Illinois Innocence Project. Additionally, any visual or audio recording created during case work is not to be retained, recorded, or kept in any fashion after the completion of the externship. Faculty will not be recording the class sessions without notice to you.

**Emergency Procedures:** Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Safety’s website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency
Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility. Please remember either to insert this language in your syllabus, distribute a handout with the language to your students on the first day of class, or post the notice in a document on your TWEN page. (Of course, you may do all three if you wish.)

**Disability Policy:** Disability Support Services provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. [http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/](http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/). Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreement to the School of Law Registrar’s Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations.

**Saluki Cares:** The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-5714, or siucares@siu.edu, [http://salukicares.siu.edu/index.html](http://salukicares.siu.edu/index.html). At the School of Law, Assistant Dean Judi Ray is also available to help students access university resources. Her email is judiray@siu.edu, and her phone number is 618-453-3135.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarizing another's work, in whole or in part, is a violation of the Honor Code and can lead to serious penalties, including expulsion. An Honor Code investigation must also be reported to the Bar Examiners, even if you are cleared of any violation. The Honor Code defines plagiarism as:

- passing off another’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own, including written, oral, multimedia, or other work, either word for word or in substance, unless the student author credits the original author and identifies the original author’s work with quotation marks, footnotes, or other appropriate designation in such a way as to make clear the true author of the work.

There are many opportunities for collaboration in this class, and I urge that – we can learn a lot from each other. However, plagiarism will not be tolerated – this can typically be avoided with proper citation.
## WRONGFUL CONVICTION BOOK LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>General subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption</td>
<td>Jennifer Thompson-Cannino &amp; Ronald Cotton</td>
<td>Eyewitness misidentification, DNA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims of Justice, Revisited</td>
<td>Frisbie &amp; Garrett</td>
<td>False confession, police misconduct</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Spite of the System*</td>
<td>Gary Gauger w/ Julie Von Bergen</td>
<td>False confession, government misconduct</td>
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<tr>
<td>*This book is short, so you must supplement with other false confession readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journey Toward Justice</td>
<td>Dennis Fritz</td>
<td>Snitches, prosecutor misconduct, DNA **Companion to “The Innocent Man” by John Grisham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloodsworth: The True Story of the First Death Row Inmate Exonerated by DNA</td>
<td>Tim Junkin</td>
<td>DNA exonerations; eyewitness misidentification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting Life: An Innocent Man's 25-Year Journey from Prison to Peace</td>
<td>Michael Morton</td>
<td>Prosecutor misconduct, snitch, DNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>It Happened to Audrey</td>
<td>Audrey Edmonds</td>
<td>Shaken Baby Syndrome, junk science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devil’s Knot: The True Story of the West Memphis Three</td>
<td>Mara Leavitt</td>
<td>Junk science, prosecutor misconduct, false confession</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actual Innocence: When Justice Goes Wrong and How to Make It Right</td>
<td>Barry Scheck, Peter Neufeld, Jim Dwyer</td>
<td>Misc. causes - covers many exonerations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane: The Miraculous Journey of Rubin Carter</td>
<td>James S. Hirsch</td>
<td>Eyewitness misidentification, police misconduct, recantations</td>
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