

Applied Legal History:
A Case Study of *Chambers v. Florida*

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor:	Elizabeth Dale
Office:	365 Holland Hall (Thursdays only); 07 Keene Flint Hall (M,T,W,F)
Phone:	352-273-3387
Office Hours:	Thursday 10-11am, 1-2pm
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COURSE INFORMATION:

Time:	8-10 periods
Location:	Holland Hall 283

Brief description of the course: In the first class meeting we will discuss *Chambers v. Florida* and break the case down into a series of research problems. Once we have identified a preliminary list of research topics, students will begin work to determine the resources available for work on those topics. Based on this round of groundwork, we may redefine or refocus research problems. Then, working individually or in small groups, students in the course will engage in a mix of primary and secondary source-based research into specific topics.

Roughly one hour of class each week will be devoted to project updates. Approximately one other hour each week will be devoted to background training, which may involve presentations on historical issues or may involve presentations on research tools or techniques. As needed, we will invite experts from other departments (criminology, history, oral history, the library) to class to discuss research issues and provide background information to students. The third part of each week will involve smaller meetings of the student-researchers to formulate research plans for the upcoming week in consultation with the instructor.

While students will be graded (see assignments below) individually, we will also work together as a group to create a digital case study that can be used as a classroom resource. The general model for the digital case study will be the Famous American Trials website, here:

<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/ftrials.htm>.

We will build the case study on an easy to use website such as Wordpress or Omeka (which is specifically designed for history exhibits of this sort), the creation of the digital exhibit will give the students an opportunity to learn (or use) some basic computer and presentation skills.

Required Texts:

There are no required books. A collection of primary source materials relating to the *Chambers* case, including the transcript of a trial transcript, have been posted on the class website, here: <http://people.clas.ufl.edu/edale/courses/course-1/chambers-v-florida-preliminary-library/> .

Recommended Texts:

A list of relevant articles, books, and other background material will be shared in a publically accessible Zotero Group list.

Assignments and grading:

1. Research: each student in the course will be responsible for a 10-15 page research paper on some aspect of the case study. This paper will combine research in primary and secondary materials and will be due no later than 10th week in the semester. **Worth 30% of final grade.**
2. Presentation: each student in the course will be responsible for two 15-minute presentations over the course of the semester. At least one presentation will be on research; the second presentation may be on research or may be a presentation on a research or presentation tool (for example, a student could do a presentation on using Google Maps to create an annotated map of the investigation in the case). **Worth 30% of final grade.**
3. Project: students will be assigned to work on developing a part of the case study website. Students will be graded on this project: each team member will do a self-assessment and a peer-assessment of their work on their project, those assessments, in combination with the instructor's assessment of the final web element, will be the basis of this grade. **Worth 30% of final grade.**
4. Participation: students will be graded for their attendance and engaged participation in the class discussion and project. **Worth 10% of final grade.**

Attendance, make ups, etc:

In contrast to a class or seminar, where a student's absence harms the student more than the group, this course assumes that all participants are teachers as well as learners. Effective work in the studio depends on the regular and active attendance of all participants at all the weekly sessions, and to that end engaged attendance must be more than an aspiration. Requirements for class attendance are consistent with university policies (see <http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies>) Note, however, that students with more than two unexcused absences from weekly

sessions may be asked to withdraw from the course or suffer significant grading penalties.

Assignments and other required work are due on the dates agreed upon by the participants at the beginning of the semester (see the course schedule, below). Work that is missed because of excused absences may be made up as the course schedule permits. Students who are chronically unable to meet deadlines may be asked to withdraw from the course or suffer significant grading penalties. Periodic reviews of work in progress will enable students to adjust project goals if needed in order to stay within workable timelines.

Grade scale:

Grade	Points
A (Excellent)	4.0
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B (Good)	3.0
B-	2.67
C +	2.33
C (Satisfactory)	2.0
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D (Poor)	1.0
D-	0.67
E (Failure)	0.0

Academic honesty:

All UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student

who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

Semester schedule:

Week one: Discussion of *Chambers* decision, preliminary identification of research topics and assignment of areas for students to do groundwork research on.

Week two and three: Discussion of groundwork research, refining of specific research topics. Background presentations on criminal justice in the first half of the twentieth century and coerced confession cases.

Schedule for first round of presentations will be established week 2.

Week four through ten: Group and individual research on projects. Weekly updates on project progress. Weekly background presentations on historical issues and on research tools.

All students will do at least one presentation during this period (students may complete their second presentation in this period).

Week ten: last week for turning in research papers.

Weeks eleven through thirteen: Work begins on case study website. Weekly presentations on project work to-date. Presentations on digital tools. Additional background research done as needed.

Students who have not done a second presentation will do so in this period.

Week fourteen: Preliminary version of website viewed and discussed. Revisions planned and begun.

Week fifteen: Revised version of website presented and discussed.