

# IDH2930 (sect. 1G41): Gideon's Trumpet

Spring 2017

Dr. Biagio Santorelli - Dr. Sira Grosso

- **Time and Location**

M period 9, [Hume Hall](#) 119

- **Contact Information**

Instructors: Dr. Biagio Santorelli, PhD ([b.santorelli@ufl.edu](mailto:b.santorelli@ufl.edu))

Dr. Sira Grosso, JD, LLM, PhD ([s.grosso@ufl.edu](mailto:s.grosso@ufl.edu))

Office hours: MWF period 6 (12:50-1:40pm) and by appointment  
134 Dauer Hall

- **Course objectives and goals**

In the morning mail of January 8, 1962, the Supreme Court of the United States received a five-pages petition from Clarence Earl Gideon, a prisoner in the Florida State Prison. He had been accused in a court of law of felony theft for stealing a few bottles of beer and soda and \$5 in change; he was too poor to pay for counsel, and he was denied a lawyer by his trial judge. Gideon was therefore forced to defend himself at his trial, where he was found guilty and given the sentence of five years in prison.

In his cell, Gideon studied the US legal system and concluded that his constitutional right to counsel had been violated. He wrote to the Florida Supreme Court first, in vain; he then wrote to the Supreme Court of the United States, which agreed to hear his appeal. In the subsequent trial, the lawyer assigned to represent Gideon argued that a common man with no training in law can not fairly confront a trained lawyer, and therefore that a fair trial is impossible without counsel. The Supreme Courte ruled unanimously in Gideon's favor on March 16, 1963: because of this decision, about 2,000 convict in Florida alone were freed, and Gideon was granted a retrial, in which he was eventually acquitted.

In *Gideon's Trumpet*, *New York Times* reporter Anthony Lewis gives a detailed account of a case that became a landmark in the American legal history. Today, it is a well-established principle that a criminal defendant is not to be tried without a lawyer because he could not afford one; and yet, as recently as in the year 1962, this principle was far from being given for granted. Since the ruling of the Supreme Courte in the *Gideon* case, many important changes have taken place in the US legal system: the reading of Lewis' award-winning book will give students a chance to meditate on one of the pillars of the contemporary legal system, with a specific attention to the often-perilous path that leads to the establishment of constitutional rights.

- **Textbook**

A. Lewis, *Gideon's Trumpet*, Random House 1964 (or any later edition)

- **Weekly course schedule of topics and assignments**

<b>Week 1</b>	Aug. 21	Introduction
<b>Week 2</b>	Aug. 28	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 1
<b>Week 3</b>	Sept. 4	<b>No classes (Labor Day)</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	Sept. 11	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 2
<b>Week 5</b>	Sept. 18	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 3
<b>Week 6</b>	Sept. 25	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 4
<b>Week 7</b>	Oct. 2	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 5
<b>Week 8</b>	Oct. 9	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 6
<b>Week 9</b>	Oct. 16	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 7
<b>Week 10</b>	Oct. 23	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 8
<b>Week 11</b>	Oct. 30	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 9
<b>Week 12</b>	Nov. 6	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 10
<b>Week 13</b>	Nov. 13	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 11
<b>Week 14</b>	Nov. 20	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 12
<b>Week 15</b>	Nov. 27	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 13
<b>Week 16</b>	Dec. 4	<i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> , Chapter 14

- **Course requirements and grades**

Students in IHD2930 are expected to read the assigned texts prior to class and to be prepared to participate in the discussion. Your grades will be based on your participation in class and in a presentation you will be asked to give during the course. The calendar of presentations will be set during the first week of class.

- **ADA requirements**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## ■ Grading scale

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	below 60

## ■ Course evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

## ■ Honesty policy

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-honorcode/>) 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.

- **Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:**  
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575;  
and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.