

**GERALD L. HOUSEMAN**  
**12 April 1935 – 12 December 2013**

Gerald L. Houseman, professor emeritus of political science, passed away after a long illness on December 12, 2013.

Jerry was a scholar, a friend, and the best kind of provocateur. He spurred on his students, his colleagues, and his discipline to think more deeply, more creatively, and more passionately. Born in Marshalltown, Iowa, he had a universal and restless spirit which compelled him to travel widely and publish broadly. His wonderfully mischievous sense of humor was accompanied by his sense of justice.

Professor Houseman came to IPFW in 1971 after completing his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Urbana. In his 30 years at IPFW, Jerry also taught as a Visiting Professor at Indiana University/Malaysia Cooperative Program, Shah Alam, Malaysia; St. Mary's College of California; the University of California at Irvine; California Polytechnic State University; and was a Fulbright Exchange Professor, New College, Durham, England, and Newcastle Upon Polytechnic, Newcastle, England. He also received a Fulbright Teaching and Research Award to teach in Indonesia.

He regarded the greatest tragedy of his life to be the loss of his wife, Penelope, in 1994 in a hospital in Indonesia. He said that he was never the same after this. His three children have all pursued academic careers.

Jerry resisted categorization as a specialist in this or that field. His work covered a broad range of topics and teaching responsibilities, including American politics, constitutional law, the dynamics of social change, labor studies, state and local government, comparative politics, political economy, and political theory. In recent years he devoted himself to Asian studies, with an emphasis upon Southeast and South Asia. This was an interest that had even taken hold of him when he was writing his dissertation on the Australian Labor Party.

Over the years Jerry contributed a great number of articles, book reviews, essays, and ten books. These included textbooks in American government (with H. Mark Roelofs), state and local government, and a rather acclaimed and often-quoted graduate level book of readings in constitutional law, *Judging the Constitution* (with Michael McCann). His favorites, *The Right of Mobility* (1979) and *Questioning the Law in Corporate America* (1993), did not receive as much recognition as he would have liked. *The Right of Mobility* was in many ways a groundbreaking book. A later book, *America and the Pacific Rim: Coming to Terms with New Realities* (1995), was quite successful. He dedicated this book to his late wife. His last book was *Indonesia Awakens: The Search for Economic and Political Transformation* (2000). In addition, he wrote an essay on civil liberties and the American people that was published in the *Encyclopedia of Policy Studies*, edited by Stuart Nagel, which received the Wildavsky Award as the best public policy effort of 1994. He taught courses in all of the fields in which he chose to write, and he enjoyed mentoring graduate students who went on to study for their Ph.D. degrees.

He enjoyed a measure of activism. In his early years he was a union organizer, and in 1996 he was a Democratic nominee for Congress. He also was involved in the anti-war movement and in the Caucus for a New Political Science.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Juliana, his children, Elisabeth, Christopher (Linda Lee) and Victoria (Richard Horton); his grandchildren, Renee and Roland; and his brothers Lee and Michael.