

CAS 304: Urban Crime and Justice

A Community-Engaged Learning Course

Spring 2015 | Tuesdays 4:50-6:05 | Dewey 4-162

Judge Craig Doran

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Attendance

Successful completion of this course requires attendance at all class meetings and satisfactory attendance in the court placement. If you have a conflict with a class, visit or seminar, you must inform the instructor at least two weeks in advance so alternative arrangements can be made. An excused absence is acceptable if a documented medical or family emergency prevented your attendance.

Participation

Simply put, if you are not in attendance, you are unable to participate. Each of us is expected to participate actively in each class meeting and guest seminar. That means coming to class having done the assigned readings and with questions to discuss with the group about the content of those readings. It also means actively listening to presenters and engaging them and your peers in discussion. You will be graded on the quality of your contributions in this regard, and your work in this area will amount to 25% of your final grade.

Placement at Hall of Justice

Each student will be paired with an agency or department located at the Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd in Downtown Rochester. Students are expected to serve a total of 8 hours at court each week: 2-3 hours will be observation with judges, staff, and litigants. Five to six hours will include hands on work with offices in the Hall of Justice. Areas of focus for these placements include adult crime, juvenile crime, treatment courts, domestic violence court, court-community partnerships, and equity disputes. Placement supervisors will provide evaluations to the course instructor and will be considered when assigning the participation grade.

Assignments

Critical Reflection Journals

By the end of the course, you will submit weekly reflection journals that correspond with that week's topic and court placement. Reflections are due for Weeks 3-12, totaling ten entries. The requirements for these journals are as follows:

- Two typed pages of writing describing what you observed and experienced during that week's visit and class.
- Using the critical reflection framework learned in class, you will write on how those observations and experiences affected your ideas about the institutions you observed.
- The journal entry for each visit is due by 5:00 on the Friday immediately following that visit. Late journal entries will not be accepted.

Journal entries are graded on a pass/fail basis -- you get full credit for an entry as long as it meets these requirements and reflects quality work. The instructor will occasionally ask you to share material from your journal entries with your classmates during our on-campus meetings. Together, the ten reflections count for 25% of your final grade.

Synthesis Paper

This 10-page paper enables you to connect the things you learned during community visits, discussions in class and seminars, and in the readings assigned. In this paper, you are also required to draw from outside research to support your thesis. This is an opportunity to academically explore a criminal justice issue while also applying your experiences and reflections from community involvement. This paper is graded on a pass/fail basis. The goal is to encourage use of what you see in our community to deepen the relationship between community engagement and scholarship.

Though the final draft of this paper is due at the end of the semester, you will be turning in a draft midway through the term. By sharing your writing and thoughts with the instructors and your peers, you will gain valuable feedback that can inform the way you finish your work. We will discuss further details of this paper in class. The due dates for the Synthesis Paper are as follows:

- September 22: Annotated bibliography that includes 3 sources drawn from outside the required course readings
- October 20: Outline of Synthesis Paper
- December 1: Final draft of Synthesis Paper

These three components of your Synthesis Paper count for 25% of your final grade.

Final Presentation

The last day of class you will be giving a presentation of your final paper and final thoughts on the class material. The requirements for this presentation are as follows:

- Presentation will be 15-20 minutes
- Use visual or multimedia to present your ideas (short video, slides, symbolic item, etc.)
- Provide an overview of your Synthesis Paper
- Highlight thoughts from reflection journals
- Prepare discussion questions and facilitate discussion with the class

This presentation will account for 25% of your final grade.

Grading Summary

Participation	25%
Reflection Journals	25%
Synthesis Paper	25%
Presentation	25%

Class Schedule and Topics

JUVENILE CRIME & JUSTICE

WEEK 1

September 1: Course Overview, Juvenile Behavior & Crime

Required Reading: None

WEEK 2

September 8: Reflection & Learning

Required Reading: Critical Reflection Article

WEEK 3

September 15: Juvenile Crime & Education Systems

Required Reading:; Johnston et al "The Prism and Prison of the Child"

WEEK 4 *ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE*

September 22: Juvenile Crime & Justice Seminar

Required Reading: Curren, "Moral Education and Juvenile Crime"

ADULT CRIME & JUSTICE

WEEK 5

September 29: Adult Crime and Issues in Substance Use

Required Reading: Lamberti and Weisman, "Forensic Assertive Community Treatment"
Chandler, Fletcher and Volkow "Treating drug abuse and addiction in the criminal justice system: improving public health and safety."

WEEK 6

Oct 6: NO CLASS-FALL BREAK

WEEK 7

October 13: Adult Crime and Issues in Mental Health

Required Reading: TBA

PROCESS & PUNISHMENT

WEEK 8 *OUTLINE OF SYNTHESIS PAPER DUE*

October 20: Due Process

Required Reading: Alexander *The New Jim Crow*

WEEK 9

October 27: Incarceration, Alternatives to Incarceration, Re-entry

Required Reading: Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*

Forman "Racial Critiques of Mass Incarceration: Beyond the New Jim Crow"

WEEK 10

November 3: Process Seminar

Required Reading: Eric Holder's speech on sentencing to the ABA, Memo from Eric Holder to U.S. Attorneys implementing sentencing reform, Letter from National Association of Assistant US Attorneys opposing Holder's reform

INEQUALITIES IN CRIME & JUSTICE

WEEK 11

November 10: Gender, Sexual Orientation, & Identity Inequalities in Criminal Justice

Required Reading: TBA

WEEK 12

November 17: Race/Class Inequalities in Criminal Justice

Required Reading: Forman "Racial Critiques of Mass Incarceration: Beyond the New Jim Crow"

WEEK 13

November 24: Inequalities in Crime & Justice Seminar

Required Reading: TBA

WEEK 14 *SYNTHESIS PAPER DUE*

December 1: Presentations

WEEK 15

December 8: Presentations continued, Wrap-Up