**CAS 304: Urban Crime and Justice**

**A Community-Engaged Learning Course**

Fall 2019 – Thursday 6:15- 8:55 Goergen Hall 110

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**Attendance:**Successful completion of this course requires attendance at all class meeting 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 one week 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 you 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. You are responsible for making up missed classes.

**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 4-6 hours at court each week. This time is intended to give you a rapid and varied emersion into real life issues in the administration of justice in our community. Areas of focus for these placements will likely include adult crime, juvenile crime, treatment courts, domestic violence court, and court-community partnerships. Placement supervisors may provide evaluations to the course instructor and will be considered when assigning the participation grade.

* You will also be asked to hand in your signed time sheets to demonstrate that you have completed at least 40 hours at the Hall of Justice; failure to do so will result in a 1/3 reduction of your final grade.

**Assignments:**

**Critical Reflection Journals**

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 of the entries are as follows:

* Two typed (double spaced) 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 experience affected your ideas about the institutions you observed.
* You are responsible to reference the class readings for that week in your journal entry.
* The journal entry for each visit is due by 11:59 pm on the Sunday immediately following that visit. Your grade will be reduced by 50% for being late.
* 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. 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 an outline midway through the term. By sharing your writing and thoughts with the instructor 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 26th: Annotated bibliography that includes at least 3 sources drawn from outside the required course reading
* October 31st : Outline of Synthesis Paper
* December 5th : Final draft of Synthesis Paper The three components of your Synthesis Paper count for 25% of your final grade  **Final presentation:**  During the class’s scheduled exam time 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 10 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  The presentation will account for 25% of your final grade

**Grading Summary:**  Participation 25% Reflection Journals (P/F) 25% Synthesis Paper 25% Presentation 25%

\*participation includes both in class participation and completion of Hall of Justice hours

**Academic Honesty Policy**: All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information is available at: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty.

**Course Schedule**

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| **Process** |  |
| Week 1:  August 29th | Course Overview  *Guest Lecturer: Mandy McAvoy*  **Required reading:** Review www.nycourts.gov to gain familiarity with the NY State Court System in preparation for class |
| Week 2:  September 5th | Reflection & Learning  *Guest Lecturer on Critical Reflection*  **Required Reading:**   1. Critical Reflection Article   Overview of the Criminal Justice Process  **Required Reading:**   1. https://www.justia.com/criminal/procedure/stages-criminal-trial/ 2. https://www.justia.com/criminal/procedure/stages-criminal-case/ |
| Week 3: September 12th | Constitutional Law Overview  **Required Reading;**   1. <https://www.justia.com/constitutional-law/> |
| **Juvenile Crime & Justice** |  |
| Week 4:  September 19th | Juvenile Crime & Education Systems  **Required Reading;**   1. Johnston et al “the Prism and Prison of the Child” 2. Davies and Martin, “Children’s Coping and Adjustment in High Conflict Homes: The reformulation of Emotional Security Theory” |
| Week 5:  September 26th | Juvenile Crime & Justice Seminar  **Required reading:**   1. Curren, “Moral Education and Juvenile Crime” 2. [**https://nypost.com/2018/01/20/youre-not-an-adult-until-you-turn-24-science-says/**](https://nypost.com/2018/01/20/youre-not-an-adult-until-you-turn-24-science-says/)   **\*\*Annotated Bibliography due\*\*** Hand in a hard copy in class. Make sure to also submit the assignment to Blackboard by 11:59. |
| **Adult Crime & Justice** |  |
| Week 6: October 3rd | Adult Crime and Issues in Substance Use  *Guest Lecturer: Chief of Police*  **Required reading:**   1. Chandler, Fletcher and Volkow, “Treating drug abuse and addiction in the criminal justice system: improving public health and safety” 2. Alexander, “Public Safety, the Community, and the University in Times of Change” 3. https://www.yalelawjournal.org/forum/community-policing-as-a-counter-to-bias-in-policing |
| Week 7:  October 10th | Adult Crime and Issues in Mental Health  *Guest Lecturer: Dr. Robert Weisman*  **Required reading:**   1. Weisman, Lamberti, “Integrating Criminal Justice, Community Health care, and Support Services for Adults with Severe Mental Disorders” 2. Lamberti and Weisman, “Forensic Assertive Community Treatment” 3. Rosner Chapter |
| Week 8: October 17th | Morally Offensive Crimes: Societies Morals and Public Perception  **Required Reading:**   1. http://time.com/5132314/chemical-castration-sex-offenders/ 2. https://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/100000005415081/a-frightening-myth-about-sex-offenders.html?smid=fb-nytimes&smtyp=cur |
| Week 9:  October 24th | Politics, Due Process, and Community Values, an Impossible Fit?  **Required Readings**   1. https://www.courtinnovation.org/areas-of-focus/procedural-justice |
| **Inequalities in Crime & Justice** |  |
| Week 10:  October 31st | Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Inequalities in Criminal Justice  *Guest speaker: Amy Shwartz*  **Required reading:**   1. Harris , “Gender, Violence, Race and Criminal Justice” 2. Sandefur, “Access to Civil Justice and Race, Class, and Gender Inequality”   **\*\*Outlines of Synthesis Paper Due\*\*** Hand in a hard copy in class. Make sure to also submit the assignment to Blackboard by 11:59 |
| Week 11:  November 7th | Mass Incarceration Debate  **Required Reading:**   1. Alexander, “The New Jim Crow” 2. Forman, “Racial Critiques of Mass Incarceration:  Beyond the New Jim Crow” |
| Week 12:  November 14th | Beyond Mass Incarceration – How should we respond?  *Guest Lecturer: Robert Burns director of Public Safety*  **Required Reading:**   1. Eric Holder’s speech on sentencing to the ABA 2. Memo from Eric Holder to U.S Attorneys  implements sentencing reform 3. Letter from National Association of Assistant US  Attorneys opposing Holder’s reform 4. Vera Institute of Justice Report |
| Week 13:  November 21st | Race/Class Inequalities in Criminal Justice  *Guest Lecturer: Precious Bedell*  **Required Reading:**   1. Petit and Western, “Mass imprisonment and the Life Course: Race and Class Inequality in the U.S Incarceration” 2. Watch 13th Netflix Documentary |
| Week 14:  November 28th | NO CLASS  Thanksgiving Break |
| Week 15:  December 5th | *Guest Lecturer: Kristen Doughty*  **\*\* Synthesis Paper Due\*\***  Make sure to submit the assignment to Blackboard by 11:59 |