

THERAPEUTIC COURTS JUSTICE 494

Time: Monday and Wednesday
2:30 – 3:45

Location: RH 220

Instructor: Dr. Ronald S. Everett
Office: LIB 213
Phone: 786-1820 Voicemail
Email: afirse@uaa.alaska.edu
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 4:00 – 5:00pm;
Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00pm

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the development and expansion of therapeutic courts within the broader movement of community and problem-solving courts. The central concept of therapeutic jurisprudence is analyzed with specific attention to changes in the traditional roles of the courtroom workgroup and adversarial court process. Much of the course focuses on the creation, operation, and evaluation of mental health courts and drug treatment courts as the most common form of therapeutic court.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Increase general understanding of the operation of criminal courts and the adversarial system of justice.
2. Identify the essential components of community, problem-solving and therapeutic courts.
3. Understanding the basic principles of therapeutic jurisprudence.
4. Compare the operation of therapeutic courts to traditional criminal courts.
5. Discuss and critique the operation of therapeutic courts

III. REQUIRED TEXTS

Berman, Greg and John Feinblatt 2005. Good Courts: The Case for Problem Solving Justice. New York: The New Press.

Earley, Pete 2006. Crazy: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness. New York: Berkley Books.

Nolan, James, L. 2001. Reinventing Justice: The American Drug Court Movement. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Recommended Text

Holosko, Michael, J. 2006. Primer for Critiquing Social Research: A Student Guide. Thomson: Brooks Cole.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Examinations

There are two examinations during the semester, a mid-term and final examination. Each examination will contain short answer/definition questions and one or more essay questions.

B. Critical Review of the Research Literature

The review involves investigating the research that has been done on a particular topic and then summarizing and evaluating what you have found. The important task is to organize your material clearly and synthesize it for the reader. A good review does not simply summarize the literature, but looks for patterns and connections in the literature and discusses the strengths of what others have written. You should demonstrate how the information fits together, what information can be trusted and why, what evidence is stronger or weaker, what implications you can derive and what further research needs to be done. The specific criteria relevant to your review/critique, particularly in making assessments about the quality of the research articles, are discussed in the book Primer for Critiquing Social Research. It is strongly recommended that you read this book prior to beginning your review essay and to assist in the selection of research articles for review.

1. How to conduct your literature review (Required Steps)

- a. Select a topic and formulate a question to investigate. For example your question or issue may be to investigate if the role of the judge in a therapeutic court compromise due process.
- b. Have your topic approved by Dr. Ronald S. Everett.
- c. Search the research literature on your topic using **Criminal Justice Abstracts** available online through the Consortium Library.
- d. Find at least five (5) research articles that specifically address your issue.
- e. Read all the articles and then follow the instructions for writing your review essay (See above)
- f. Give a brief class presentation/discussion of literature review

2. Format

a. The review essay must be 5 to 7 pages in length, typed, double-spaced with 1 inch margins and a 12 point font.

b. **The review essay is due April 13, 2009.**

C. Class Attendance and Participation

This course is designed to encourage discussion and debate on the issues surrounding community and problem-solving courts generally and the emerging challenge of therapeutic jurisprudence to the traditional adversarial model underlying the operation of the criminal courts. Therefore, preparation prior to class coupled with class attendance and participation are necessary for the success of this course. The course will operate as a seminar and various in-class projects, including answering questions from the assigned reading material and group discussion activities will be completed throughout the semester.

D. Final Grade Calculation

Examination One	25%
Final Examination	25%
Review Essay	30%
Class Participation	20%

V. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Academic Honor Code

Academic integrity is a basic principle that requires students take credit for ideas and efforts that are their own. Cheating is defined as any means by which a student uses unauthorized assistance to prepare materials submitted as his/her own. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please review the current catalog and student handbook for additional information on academic dishonesty and disciplinary procedures

B. Make-up Examinations

No make-up examinations will be given absent extraordinary and documented circumstances beyond the student's control. In such cases it is your responsibility to notify me within 12 hours of the scheduled examination time.

C. Campus Safety

Although relatively safe, our campus is not a sanctuary from crime and accidents still occur no matter how hard we try to prevent them. You are encouraged to be responsible for your own safety and to bring safety concerns to the attention of UAA faculty or staff, or to contact the Campus Police at 786-1120 when necessary.

D. Accommodations for Disabilities

I am happy to provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. If you require accommodations please contact Disability Support Services and then speak with me so we can make the necessary provisions.

VI. TOPIC AREAS AND REQUIRED READING

Week 1: January 12

Court Systems and Problem-Solving Courts. Requiring Reading: Good Courts, Introduction and chapter 1

Week 2: January 21

Courtroom Workgroup and Adversarial Justice. Required Reading: Good Courts, chapter 2

Week 3: January 26

Problem –Solving Courts in Action. Required Reading: Good Courts, chapter 3-5

Week 4: February 2

Effectiveness and Fairness of Problem-Solving Courts. Required Reading: Good Courts, chapters 6, 7 and Conclusion

Week 5: February 9

Drugs, Law and the Drug Court Movement. Required Reading: Reinventing Justice, Introduction and chapters 1, 2

Week 6: February 16

Drug Courts in Alaska: Required Reading: Carns, T., Hotchkin, M. and E. Andrews, 2002. “Therapeutic Justice in Alaska’s Courts.” *Alaska Law Review*, Vol. XIX, No. 1: 1-55. (Available through Consortium Library or on the Alaska Court System website).

Week 7: February 23

Therapeutic Theater and Uncommon Law. Required Reading: Reinventing Justice, chapters 3, 4.

Week 8: March 2

Drug Court Storytelling. Required Reading: Reinventing Justice, chapter 5.

Week 9: March 9

SPRING BREAK!!!

Week 10: March 16

The Pathological Shift and the Meaning of Justice. Required Reading: Reinventing Justice, chapters 6, 7; Reinventing Justice. Required Reading: Reinventing Justice, chapter 8

Week 11: March 23

Deinstitutionalization and Mental Health Courts. Required Reading: Crazy, Part One.

Week 12: March 30

Law and Mental Illness Crazy, Required Reading: Crazy, Part Two

Week 13: April 6

Treatment and Due Process, Required Reading: Crazy, Part Three

Week 14: April 13

Evaluating Mental Health Courts, Required Reading, Crazy, Part 4 and 5

Week 15: April 20

Review and Summary

FINAL EXAMINATION Friday MAY 1 FROM 1:00 PM TO 3:00PM