**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Students in the Confessions Seminar

From: Prof. Charles Weisselberg

Re: Course Policies, Web Page, and First Assignment

Welcome to Confessions, the class where we learn how to get people to tell dirty, dark secrets. This memorandum reviews several class policies, and provides information about our course web page. Please note that the first assignment is at the end of the memo.

**COURSE POLICIES**

1. *Readings*. The syllabus and readings are available on-line (details below). The main text is Richard A. Leo, *Police Interrogation and American Justice* (Harvard University Press 2008). You can buy the book if you want, but it is available *free* as an electronic book. It is on the library website, here: http://site.ebrary.com/lib/berkeley/docDetail.action?docID=10387243. There is also a direct link to the electronic book on the course web page.

The other assigned readings are available on the course web page (more about that below) under “Files” and then the folder called “Assigned Readings.” To see the reading assignments, go to the “Syllabus” tab.

You’ll note that the readings are front-loaded. They are heavier at the start of the semester. We won’t have any readings after the November 5 class.

2. *Attendance/preparation*. I expect you to attend class regularly and to be prepared. Our class sessions will be mostly discussions of the readings and policy. Students will sign up in advance for certain weeks in which they will take the lead in presenting some of the readings and in leading the discussions about them. I will meet with or email the discussion leaders in advance so that we have a plan for the discussion before each class session. The last three and a half class meetings will be presentations and comments on student research. I will consider class participation in grading, particularly in close cases.

3. *Office hours*. My office is in Simon Hall, Room 688, and my regular hours are Tuesdays from 10:00 to noon. I’m here regularly and happy to see folks by appointment if the normal office hours do not work. Just email me for an appointment at: cweisselberg@law.berkeley.edu.

4. *DVD viewing*. As an assignment for the Sept. 10 class, you must view a police training DVD. To facilitate the viewing, we will have a screening session on Friday, September 6 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Room 145. Popcorn will be provided. I will also put the DVD on reserve in the library, but I encourage you to attend the screening.

5. *Papers*. A paper is required for the course. For a 2-unit course, the norm is a paper in the range of 20-25 pages, double-spaced. I expect students to work on the papers during the semester, and most students will present (and get feedback on) their research during the last few weeks of class. Final papers will be due on Friday, December 13, 2013. I will post a list with several possible topics so that folks can get some ideas early in the semester.

6. *Writing requirement*. Students *may* use their papers to satisfy the writing requirement if they (a) get my agreement in advance; (b) expand the paper to 30 pages minimum; and (c) submit a draft and get comments back before the final paper is due. I am also open to working with a limited number of students in Spring 2013 semester who may want to expand their papers to meet the writing requirement, potentially in conjunction with a 299.

**COURSE WEB PAGE**

Our course has been selected to use the new bCourses learning management system this Fall instead of bSpace.  bCourses (powered by Canvas) will be the eventual successor to bSpace, and the campus is rolling the new system out to a few thousand students this Fall to get feedback about how well the system works for all of us. In your bCourses course site, you'll be able to access content, and interact in all sorts of ways.

To access your bCourses and bSpace courses, log into [Cal Central](https://calcentral.berkeley.edu/) (https://calcentral.berkeley.edu/). Once you sign in to CalCentral, you will see a list of both bSpace and bCourses classes. You can access them all from there. Alternatively, to go directly to your bCourse, enter via <https://ucberkeley.instructure.com/>.

If you have trouble logging into your bCourse, email bcourses-support@law.berkeley.edu

 The syllabus is available on bCourse under the “Syllabus” tab. The readings are also available on bCourse. There is a link to the main text, Richard Leo’s book, on the left side of the page. The other readings are under the “Files” tab in the “Assigned Readings” folder. And please do check out the “instructor’s welcome.”

**FIRST ASSIGNMENT**

 The readings for our August 27 class are: Richard Leo, *Police Interrogation & American Justice*, pp. 9-40, 54-77; and John Conroy, *Unspeakable Acts, Ordinary People*, pp. 27-38.

\* \* \*

I hope that you enjoy the course.