

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM IN CALIFORNIA

Criminal Justice Reform in California

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UC Berkeley School of Law

Fall 2012

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:10 pm – 3:25 pm

Room 115

3 Units

Course Overview

This course will examine criminal justice reform in California. Topics will include juvenile justice, the death penalty, Three Strikes, parole, restorative justice, drug policy, racial disparities in the criminal justice system, criminal justice realignment, reentry, police reform, and women and girls in the criminal justice system. Students will learn to evaluate potential reforms by asking: (1) Does it make us safer?, (2) Is it cost-effective?, and (3) Is it fair and equitable? Students will learn the importance of utilizing evidence-based practices, building partnerships, and employing effective communication techniques in successful reform efforts.

Grading and Assignments

Grades will be based on the final paper (60%) and class participation (40%). Participation points will be earned by participating in class discussions, presenting on class readings, preparing questions for the guest practitioners, presenting paper topics, and providing feedback on other students' paper topics.

Students must write a 30-page final paper on a criminal justice reform topic. The paper will take the form of a policy memo to inform a high-level decision-maker about a specific issue and recommend a program or policy direction. This course may satisfy the UC Berkeley School of Law Writing Requirement.

Course Schedule and Readings

There will typically be two classes per week, on the same topic. The first class will be a discussion with the instructor; the second class will include a discussion with a leading practitioner or practitioners on the topic. **Reading assignments will be posted on bSpace.**

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- Class Session #1 (August 23)
The State of California's Criminal Justice System and the Framework for Reform
- Class Sessions #2 & #3 (August 28 & 30)
Juvenile Justice
Guest:
 - Scott MacDonald, Santa Cruz Chief Probation Officer
- *Note: Class will not meet on September 4 & 6*
- Class Sessions #4 & #5 (September 11 & 13)
The Death Penalty
Guest:
 - Jeanne Woodford, Former Warden, San Quentin State Prison; Executive Director, Death Penalty Focus
- *Paper Topics Due September 17*
- Class Sessions #6 & #7 (September 18 & 20)
Three Strikes
Guest:
 - George Gascon, San Francisco District Attorney
- Class Sessions #8 & #9 (September 25 & 27)
Parole
Guests:
 - Nancy Mullane, Author, Life After Murder: Five Men in Search of Redemption
 - Don Cronk, Formerly Incarcerated Parolee; Featured in Life After Murder
- Class Sessions #10 & #11 (October 2 & 4)
Restorative Justice
Guest:
 - Sunny Schwartz, Director, Community Restoration Programs, San Francisco Adult Probation Department
- Class Sessions #12 & 13 (Oct. 9 & 11)
Drug Policy
Guest:
 - Gil Kerlikowske, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy (White House Drug Czar) (via video link)

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- Class Sessions #14 & 15 (Oct. 16 & 18)
Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System
Guest:
 - James Bell, Executive Director, W. Haywood Burns Institute for Juvenile Justice Fairness and Equity

Paper Outlines Due October 22
- Class Sessions #16 & 17 (Oct 23 & 25)
Criminal Justice Realignment
Guest:
 - Mark Leno, California State Senator
- Class Sessions #18 & 19 (Oct. 30 & Nov. 1)
Reentry
Guest:
 - Wendy Still, San Francisco Chief Adult Probation Officer
- Class Session #20 (Friday, Nov. 2) (Make-up Day #1)
Paper Presentations #1
- Class Sessions #21 & 22 (Nov. 6 & 8)
Police Reform
Guest:
 - Bernard Melekian, Director, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office, US Department of Justice; Former President, California Police Chiefs Association (via video link)
- Class Session #23 (Friday, Nov. 9) (Make-up Day #2)
Paper Presentations #2
- Class Sessions #24 & 25 (Nov. 13 & 15)
Women & Girls in the Criminal Justice System
Guest:
 - Gena Castro Rodriguez, Executive Director, Youth Justice Institute
- Class Session #26 (Friday, Nov. 16) (Make Up Day #3)
Paper Presentations #3

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- Class Session #27 (Nov. 20)
Election Recap: Death Penalty and Three Strikes Initiatives on November 2012 Ballot
Guests:
 - Natasha Minsker, Campaign Director, Yes on 34
 - Michael Romano, Director, Stanford Three Strikes Clinic

Note: Class will not meet on November 22 (Thanksgiving)

- Class Session #28 (Nov. 27)
Criminal Justice Reform in California: Where Do We Go From Here

Final Papers Due December 14