

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, LAW AND SOCIETY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

SYLLABUS

Advocate: Offenders in Society

JLS 490.004

Spring 2005

Every Other Tuesday, 2:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Professor Gregory A. Hunt (“Greg”)
Office Phone Number: 202.885.2875
Home Phone Number: 240.631.0266
Cell Phone Number: 301.807.1618
e-mail: ghunt@american.edu

Office: Brandywine, Suite #100
Office Fax Number: 202.885.2885
Office Hours: 2:30-3:30 T & F

Course Objectives and Goals

The goals of the program are for you to: (1) learn and apply various advocacy skills while working with offenders and community agencies; (2) gain an understanding of the inner workings of community correctional agencies, the field of community corrections, and governmental agencies; and (3) obtain practical experience working with offenders. For offenders the goals are: (1) increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services to those offenders who have recently been released from incarceration after serving a substantial period of confinement; (2) reduce the recidivism rate of these offenders; and (3) increase the quality of life of these offenders. During this course you will work with a community correctional agency and community resource agencies to insure effective delivery of community services to offenders who are reentering society.

Requirements

1. Minimum of fifteen hours per week for twelve weeks
1. Group meetings every other Tuesday (Jan. 18, Feb. 1, Feb. 15, March 1, March 15, March 29, and April 12)
1. Maintain a diary
1. Make a presentation to officials at CSOSA concerning your work, date to be determined
1. Read articles as assigned

Grading

- Diary - 30%
- Group Discussion - 20% will be for group discussion
- Work - 40%
- Presentation - 10%

Diary:

Your diary should include a description of the agency's organization, its goals/objectives, and its services.¹ You should learn as much as possible about the formal organization, not only in the Community Supervision Services but also the entire organization of court services, also known as Community Services and Offender Supervision Agency ("CSOSA"). You may want to request a visit with the section that actually supervises the offenders and meet the probation and parole officers. There is also a section that oversees the pretrial services of CSOSA. You should learn about their services too. Your diary should begin with a synopsis of the entire organization.

Your diary should also include the activities that you observe. As you know, organizations have stated goals and policies that are not necessarily implemented in the manner intended. You should compare the policies to the actual activities of the organization. You should describe the differences and assess the causes and results. You should also observe and record major changes in the agency, especially policy changes. You should observe the personnel and their reaction to the new policies. You should then evaluate their implementation.

Most importantly, you should describe your activities and your ability to perform them. Describe your relationship to other personnel, and their relationship to each other. You should also note the interaction between the personnel and the offenders. **(Do not record any names of the offenders or any identification information. This information is confidential and should not be mentioned outside the agency.)**

Meetings:

The meetings will occur every other Tuesday. The meeting will be a combination of training, discussion, and assessment of internship. There will be a few articles to read.

Presentation:

CSOSA officials have requested that the students provide a short presentation concerning their internship. They want your feedback in regard to the program.

¹Request an organization chart and manual. There may be separate manuals for the Community Supervision Services Unit and overall CSOSA. You may also want to examine their web page, <http://www.csosa.gov>.