

Managing Probation

Fall 2014

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Textbook: Probation and Parole: Theory and Practice by Howard Abadinsky, Thirteenth Edition

Course Description:

Most offenders serve their sentences in the community, and even those who are incarcerated eventually return to the community, often on a form of probation. This course is designed to provide the student with a comprehensive overview of the study of Probation. Major emphasis will be placed on the components of probation, the offenders involved and the significance of intermediate punishments or sanctions to probation and the criminal justice system. An example is when to file a Violation of Probation, the possible alternatives before reaching this stage. Among the lecture topics to be discussed are Adult Supervision Unit, Juvenile Supervision, Criminal and Child support; in addition specialized case loads will be a focus, Drug Court, Domestic Violence, and Sex offenders. Also, emphasis will be placed on the styles of supervision, goals and objectives of probation, the management of officers, current issues, and challenges and trends.

Course Objectives:

The overall goal of this course is to provide the student with the expertise he or she needs to critically analyze the issues, challenges and trends as they exist in Probation today. After successful completion of the course, the student should:

- (A) be able to clearly distinguish each division within probation
- (B) be able to significantly appreciate the value of intermediate punishments or sanctions as correctional alternatives
- (C) have an accurate, detailed, understanding of the management of Probation Officer's including management approach
- (D) appreciate and understand the value of a variety of supervision styles between the Probation Officer and the offender
- (E) understand the impact of current issues, challenges and trends have on probation

Final Assessment of Grades will be as follows:

Mid-Term Paper 30%

Final Examination 40%

Class Participation 30%

Class Participation is weighted in this course because discussions aid in the student's ability to understand the impact of probation in our society. Also, an interactive approach aids in the student's learning and creates an environment where an exchange of ideas is valued.

Included in the class participation grade is an oral presentation of one chapter from the textbook. You will be assigned a specific chapter to present to the class. The oral presentation needs to be accompanied by a typed hand-out, which provides an in-depth review of the chapter's major themes and content. This outline will enhance your presentation and be part of your grade.

For your **mid-term research paper**, you will select a current challenge or trend in community supervision release. Your paper should include an introduction/history of the challenge or trend, its current and future implications, and your opinion about the challenge or trend. Further discussion of the mid-term paper will occur later in the semester.

Cheating and Plagiarism
Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.

Overview of Class Schedule, which is subject to change depending on the progress of the class:

Class 1: September 4, 2014

Discussion of course syllabus; students' introduction; Overview of Chapter 1: Probation in Criminal Justice

Class 2: September 11, 2014

Chapter 2: Probation History and Administration; New Jersey standard of condition for probation; class presentation

Class 3: September 18, 2014

Guest Speaker Major Wayne Sanderson Trenton State Prison

Chapter 3: Sentencing and the Presentence Investigation; related hand-outs; class presentation

Class 4: September 25, 2014

Guest Speaker: Deputy Public Defender Peter Abatemarco Hunterdon Public Defender's Office

Chapter 4: The Probation Officer and Juvenile Justice; class presentation

Class 5: October 2, 2014

Guest Speaker: Supervising Probation Officer Peter Diaz, Sex offender Domestic Violence Probation Supervisor

Chapter 5: The American Prison System; alternatives to state prison;

Class presentation

Class 6: October 9, 2014

Specialized case loads; Interstate Transfers via ICOTS; CEP; Community service; fines collected; Intake; early terminations; Violations of Probation; class presentations

Class 7: October 16, 2014

Chapter 8: Rehabilitation and Supervision in Probation and Parole; class presentations

Class 8: October 23, 2014

Guest speaker: Assistant Prosecutor Stacey Guerds, Mercer County Prosecutor Office

Class 9: October 30, 2014

Chapter 9/10: Probation and Parole Supervision; Class presentation

Class 10: November 6, 2014- **Midterm Paper due**

Management within probation unit; vicinage chief to supervisors; management styles used; hand outs will be supplied, class presentation

Class 11: November 13, 2014

Chapter 11: Special Problems and Programs in Probation and Parole; class presentation

Class 12: November 20, 2014

Chapter 12: Intermediate punishments; class presentation

November 27, 2014 Thanksgiving Recess

Class 13: December 4, 2014 Using the book Silos, politics and Turf wars Patrick Lencioni we will be discussing what creates a good leader and manager; final review

**** December 18, 2014 Final Exam****