

**Criminal Justice and Mental Illness:
Treatment Based Approach**

Spring 2014

January 22, 2014 to May 12, 2014

Jennifer L. Yuzuk

Jyuzuk@yahoo.com

Textbook: Law and Mental Health: A Case-Based Approach, by Meyer, Robert G. & Weaver, Christopher M.

Book: An American's Resurrection: My Pilgrimage from Child Abuse and Mental Illness to Salvation, by Arauz, Eric C.

Course Description:

The topic of mentally ill and/ or chemically addicted (MICA) offenders is clearly at the forefront of the NJ legal systems development. The recent expansions of Drug Court and appointment of Mental Health Probation Officers are examples of this. MICA issues play a central role in getting people in the system. With the recent closing of psychiatric hospitals due to funding; prisons are becoming home to individuals with mental illness; when given the appropriate treatment would not otherwise be. Lack of treatment and resources leads to criminal activity. The drug addict that robs a home to get money for drugs or the untreated mentally ill person decompensating because of lack of medication and whose odd behavior leads to assaultive confrontation with police; which eventually leads to revolving door legal issues. There are programs developed specifically for military veteran offenders with PTSD, who have committed usually violent offenses related to their trauma often fueled by addiction. This course will focus on this population and treatment used with legal leverage. It will review the options available and resources provided by the state. Treatment and preventative measures while a person is in prison, or supervised release helps the community, and prevents recidivism. The legal system needs to work and understand how to use these resources for successful rehabilitation.

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course will be to develop an understanding of the dynamics behind the correlation between crime and mental illness, and the treatment alternatives to incarceration that are available. After successful completion of the course, the student should:

- (A) have an accurate, detailed, understanding of identifying causes which lead to incarceration among individuals with mental illness
- (B) appreciate and understand the value of learning offender perspective
And their ability for rehabilitation
- (C) to be able to clearly distinguish between theory and reality of various research regarding mental illness and the criminal justice system
- (D) understand the impact of current issues, challenges and trends have on recidivism regarding untreated mental illness

(E) to be able to understand the various agencies providing treatment, and the state laws which govern them

Final Assessment of Grades will be as follows:

50% Exams

25% Quizzes

25% Class Participation/Attendance

Class Participation is weighted in this course because it aids in the student's ability to understand the impact of mental illness and crime 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.

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: January 22, 2014

Discussion of course syllabus; students' introduction; Overview of Chapter 1: Law and Mental Health

Class 2/3: January 27, 2014 and January 29, 2014

Chapter 1: Psychological issues and involvement in Basic Courtroom Proceedings; Class presentation

Class 4/5: February 3, 2014 and February 5, 2014

February 3, 2014: Chapter 2, class presentation

February 5, 2014: Guest Speaker Ms. Jass Pelland Clinical Director Hunterdon Drug Awareness LCSW, ACSW, LCADC, CJC

Class 6/7: February 10, 2014 and February 12, 2014

February 10, 2014: Guest Speaker Mr. Frank L. Greenagel, Jr. MPAP Candidate, CCS Candidate, Recovery Counselor; Recovery Housing Rutgers University

February 12, 2014 Chapter 3, class presentation

Class 7/8: February 17, 2014 and February 19, 2014

Guest Speaker: Ms. Megan Boylan Sullivan Certified Disaster Response Crisis Counselor, LPC, LCADC

February 19: Chapter 4, class presentation

Class 9/10: February 24, 2014 to February 26, 2014

Chapter 5; class presentation

Class 11/12: March 3, 2014 to March 5, 2014

March 3, 2014: Review of the Book American Resurrection

March 5, 2014: Guest Speaker; Author Eric Arauz MLER International Behavioral Health Expert and Keynote Speaker; Adjunct Instructor Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Psychiatry

Class 13/14: March 10, 2014 to March 12, 2014

March 10, 2014: Guest Speaker Major Wayne Sanderson, New Jersey State Prison

March 12, 2014: Chapter 5; class presentation

Spring Recess March 15, 2014 to March 23, 2014 NO CLASS

Chapter 15/16: March 24, 2014 and March 26, 2014

Chapter 7-8; class presentation

Class 17/18: March 31, 2014 and April 2, 2014

March 31, 2014: Guest Speaker: Assistant Prosecutor Drug Court Middlesex County; Ms. Allysa Gambarella

April 2, 2014: Chapters 9-10; class presentation

Class 17/18: April 7, 2014 and April 9, 2014

Chapter's 10-12 and class presentation

Class 19/20: April 14, 2014 and April 16, 2014

Chapter's 13-15; class presentation

April 16, 2014 Guest Speaker: Mr. John Manzo, Master Probation Officer Specialized Caseload Sex Offender/Domestic Violence

Class 21/22: April 21, 2014 and April 23, 2014

Chapter's 16-19 and class presentation

Class 23/24: April 28, 2014 and April 30, 2014

Chapter's 19-22 and class presentation

Class 25: May 5, 2014

Final Review; final class presentation

FINAL EXAM: MAY 12, 2014