

Advanced Criminal Law Seminar (CRI 7305 01)

Fall 2021

Wednesday: 8:30 am – 10:20 am

Oakes 210

(2 Credits)

Prof. Robert L. Sand

(Preferred pronouns: he, him, his)

Rogers House 204 (802) 831-1061

Office Hours: Wednesday 2 pm – 3pm and by appointment

[rsand@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:rsand@vermontlaw.edu)

**Course Goals:**

This course introduces you to programs that provide an alternative approach to the traditional, punitive criminal legal system. You will not only gain an in-depth knowledge of regional, national, and international alternative criminal justice programs, but you will also meet with and learn from leading alternative justice practitioners. Over the course of the semester, you will research, design, and write a paper on an alternative criminal justice approach of your choosing. The semester will culminate with in-class presentations of your criminal justice proposals.

**Course Culture:**

Discussions of conflict, harm, and crime may touch upon sensitive material. Please treat the material and each other with respect. Please understand that part of law school and graduate school is gaining familiarity and comfort with new terms and concepts. Mistakes are inevitable and an important way to learn. This holds true for professors as well. Please let me know if anything I say or do causes you concern during the semester.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

- Understand the workings of the traditional criminal justice system and where effective alternatives fit within that system
- Identify individuals appropriate for referral to alternative programs
- Develop and present a persuasive proposal advocating for the creation of an alternative criminal justice approach
- Develop contacts within and outside Vermont with leading criminal justice practitioners

**Course Expectations:**

Attendance in class is mandatory. I expect you to be prepared, having read and/or listened to the assignment materials, and ready to actively participate, which includes preparing questions for the guest presenters in advance. Internet and email use during class is strongly discouraged except as necessary to access materials related to our discussions.

Each of you will be asked to introduce one of our guest presenters which will involve contacting them before class. You will also be asked to prepare questions and facilitate a discussion of the presentation during the first 30 minutes of the subsequent class.

Class meets once per week for an hour and fifty minutes. Classes will be recorded. You should plan to engage in four hours per week of outside work related to class. This will include completion of assigned work as well as additional time researching, developing, writing, and presenting your final project and paper. We will meet one-on-one at least once to discuss your paper and project.

**Course Materials:**

We will not be using a textbook this semester. Please read Whirligig by Paul Fleischman, available through the VLS bookstore. This young adult (short) novel will help frame our discussions. The book involves a fatal motor vehicle crash. Additional reading material is on Canvas listed by class topic. We will also have a MS TEAMS group to allow for remote presentations from our guest presenters.

**Grading:**

I will grade your course work as follows:

- A. Your preparation for and participation in class, including your introduction of a guest presenter and facilitation of a discussion about the presentation (10%)
- B. Your submission of a detailed proposal outline (15%)
- C. A presentation in class of your proposal and submission of any supporting materials (35%)
- E. A final paper on the alternative justice program of your creation or modification (expected length 10 to 20 pages) (40%)

I will provide further details about the proposal, paper, and presentation in a separate document.

Class	Date	Topic	Material	Presenter
1	Wednesday September 1	Introductions; Course Overview; Expectations; and Values	CANVAS Module: Getting Started	Robert Sand
2	Wednesday, September 8	Criminal Justice System Overview; Sequential Intercept Model	CANVAS Module: Introduction	Robert Sand
3	Wednesday, September 15	Restorative Justice and Circles	CANVAS Module: Restorative Justice	Lindsey Pointer, Ph.D. Asst. Director National Center on Restorative Justice
4	Wednesday, September 22	RJ Inside and Out	CANVAS Module: Alternative Prison Models	Transformational Prison Project: Armand Coleman Eric Anderson Robert Iacoviello, Jr. Emanuel Williams
5	Wednesday, September 29	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Law Enforcement and Community Relations	CANVAS Module: 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Policing	Major Ingrid Jonas. Vermont State Police (Ret)  Etan Nesreddin- Longo, Ph.D. Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems Advisory Panel (RDAP)
6	Wednesday, October 6	The Role of the Prosecutor and the Defender	CANVAS Module: A Prosecutor and Defender Perspective	Sarah George, Esq. State's Attorney Chittenden County, VT Professor Jessica Brown, Former Head Public Defender Chittenden County, VT
7	Wednesday, October 13	Restorative Writing/Preamble Project	CANVAS Module: Writing	Katharine Blake McGowan, Esq.; Author

8	Wednesday, October 20	Persuasive Presentations	CANVAS Module: Persuasive Presentations	TBD
9	Wednesday, October 27	Medication Assisted Treatment and Drug Policy	CANVAS Module: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)	Anthony Folland, Clinical Services Manager and State Opioid Treatment Authority
	Wednesday, November 3	No Class Monday Class Schedule		
10	Wednesday, November 10	Diversion and Community Responses	CANVAS Module: Diversion and Pretrial Services	Ellen Wicklum Director, Valley Court Diversion Susan Sam-Mensah, Valley Court Diversion
11	Wednesday, November 17	Presentations		
12	Wednesday, November 24	Presentations		
13	Wednesday, December 1	Presentations		
14	Wednesday, December 8	Last Class		

ROBERT L. SAND



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MEMORANDUM

To: Advanced Criminal Law Seminar  
From: Robert L. Sand  
Date: August 30, 2021  
Re: Project

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You may work individually or with one other person on your project. If you choose to partner with someone you will each receive the same final grade for the paper and presentation unless some compelling reason dictates otherwise.

Your project will consist of the following components:

1. At least one planning/brainstorming meeting with me which you must schedule to be held before September 30.
2. Submission of a detailed project outline including the intended method of presenting your proposal (due by October 29). The outline should include a summary of the project, your topic headings, research and source materials consulted (or to be consulted), and intended presentation method (i.e. PowerPoint, Prezi, simulation etc.)
3. Presentation of your proposal to the class (the last 3-4 classes are devoted to presentations). You will likely have approximately 15 minutes for the presentation. (Presentation materials, if any, are due by Noon the day following your presentation).
4. Submission of the final paper (due by December 10)
5. If you are using the paper as your Advanced Writing Requirement for the JD program, I will provide comments on your paper submitted by December 10 and you will have until December 17 to submit your final AWR paper. You will need to prepare the AWR Certification form.

Your paper and presentation will be graded based on the quality of the research and writing, the depth of consideration given to your proposal, the persuasiveness of your ideas, and the timeliness of all your submissions.

Your project, product, and presentation may take a variety of forms which we can discuss. Part of your planning must include consideration of how you will present your idea to the class and/or a larger audience.

Your project may be completely of your own design or invention, or it may be a refinement, elaboration, or modification of something that already exists, assuming you provide appropriate attribution. Your proposal does not need to be Vermont specific.

Student:

Advanced Criminal Law – Presentation Rubric

	Presentation Style: Powerful Opening, Eye Contact, Clear Voice, Speaking not reading	Engagement with Audience; Time Management	Visual Materials Image based v. Word based	Use of Language and Word Choice, filler words
Excellent				
Very Well Done				
Good				
Fair				