

Law, Societies, & Justice 401
Fieldwork, Internship
Summer 2006

Faculty Supervisor: **Michael McCann**
Office: Gowen 47
Office Hours:
Telephone: 543-2377
Email: mwmccann@u.washington.edu
FAX: 206/685-2146

Contact Person: **Mark Weitzenkamp, Adviser**
Office: Gowen 42
Office Hours: 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-5:00 weekdays
Telephone: 543-2396
Email: lsjadv@u.washington.edu

Course Overview: The fieldwork internship is required for all Law, Societies, and Justice majors. The internship provides students with an opportunity to work directly with persons, agencies, and groups concerned with our system of criminal and civil justice. The objectives of the internship are: 1) to provide students with insights into the workings of the civil and criminal justice system that go beyond what you read in the literature, 2) to "test" some of the theories and concepts found in the literature against the "real world" and 3) to initiate career development and goals.

Requirements: Successful completion of a minimum of 100 hours community service/field internship,
A. Organizational Profile (5-8 pages, turn in to faculty supervisor)
B. Analytical Paper (6-8 pages, turn in to faculty supervisor)
C. Evaluations (personal and site supervisor)
D. At least two meetings with faculty supervisor during quarter

NOTE: Both papers and the student evaluation must be turned in together. These three items should be in a single envelope or folder so as not to be lost. Turning them in separately or loose will jeopardize your grade.

Assignment Explanations and Guidelines for LSJ 401

A. Organizational Profile. The following outline is provided as a guide to assist you in preparation of a basic profile and analysis regarding the organization where you performed your internships. This outline should serve to generate an "average" level of information; the serious student should seek to, add other relevant information. The analysis in most cases will be 5-8 pp. (typed, double spaced) in length.

Basic Information:

- ◆ Location of organization
- ◆ Primary purpose (statement of purpose) of the organization
- ◆ Budget size of the organization and the percent of total budget relative to other agencies; the percent of the budget assigned to your specific site
- ◆ The number of employees, the proportion relative to other organizations when appropriate, and the number of employees at your specific site
- ◆ The organizational chart of the organization, including all of the significant positions and how they are related
- ◆ The relationship between your site and (other) governmental entities, if relevant
- ◆ Identify the elected officials/departments that oversee the operation of the organization, if relevant.

Micro-Organizational Analysis:

- ◆ Describe your work unit/area of placement and how it relates to the organization as a whole
- ◆ Describe your role and how it relates to the work unit
- ◆ Describe the people you work with by role, and if relevant, by personality and management style and length of service
- ◆ Describe their background and your impression of your co-workers. What factors account for your impressions of both the employees and the organization?
- ◆ What is the most interesting aspect of your work unit? Why? What is the least interesting aspect of your work unit? Why?
- ◆ What are your career plans? Has the service at this organization affected these plans? How?
- ◆ What were your expectations for the internship at this organization? How does the reality compare? Positive aspects? Negative aspects, if any?
- ◆ What additional comments would you like to add to the information requested?

Macro-Organizational Analysis:

- ◆ Describe the primary inputs (clients, offenders, victims, focus of agency, etc.) and where they fall in socioeconomic "space". What accounts for similarities and differences in your clients?
- ◆ What role does coercion or violence play in your organization? Enumerate and discuss the various forms of coercion utilized by your organization?
- ◆ How does your organization relate or link to other areas/organizations in the criminal/civil justice system? Describe the qualitative nature of this relationship and linkage
- ◆ Describe your organization's outputs or effects. What is the product, outcome, etc that your organization produces? How does this output affect the social order, power relations, prospects for justice?
- ◆ What are the most important political issues facing your organization? Why are they important?

- ◆ Describe your organization's relationship to/with the media. How does your organization help to shape the definition and perception of crime/criminals or civil rights offenses/offenders?
- ◆ What social groups or segments of the community/public are most involved with your organization? Why? Least involved? Why? What are the implications of these levels of involvement for your organization?

B. Analytical Paper

A six-eight (6-8) page paper that analyzes your experience and how it fits into existing academic literature in the field of law, society, and justice is also required. This requirement is intended to encourage you to relate your experience to current publications and research through an analytical format. Your paper should not be primarily description and should not replicate your organizational analysis (above). Instead, you are required to compare and contrast your observations with existing academic literature. This requires that you develop a sustained argument, and not just state your opinions. For example, you may find that your experience in the Seattle Police Department confirms many of the observations by Skolnick and Fyfe in their book, *Above the Law*. Or, you may find discrepancies in their argument and your experience, and be able to point out some weakness or shortcomings in their analysis. Specifically, as regards the academic literature, you are to use at least two recent scholarly articles from scholarly journals or a book on the topic that you have read in class or found through research. You need not undertake new reading or original research, but such initiative is surely encouraged where appropriate. *We very strongly encourage you to choose the academic material for your paper early in the internship quarter. Experience confirms that waiting until the end of the quarter to decide about academic material and paper topic will make the paper more difficult to write and less successful as an exercise than if basic choices are made earlier.*

Your paper should include the following elements:

- ◆ **Introduction to the topic in general terms.** What is the major problem that your organization is attempting to solve or alleviate? How widespread and severe is the problem (use statistical information to indicate trends, etc.) ? What dilemmas (political, economic and social) are associated with solving it? What is the approach that your organization has taken toward solving it? What are the controversies in the field right now?
- ◆ **Your thesis/argument.** What is the main point that you will make in the paper? Your thesis statement needs to contain an argument -- something that the reader can agree or disagree with, and it should relate your experience to some of the literature in the field. An example: "My experience with the Department of Health and Human Services suggests that current theories about welfare clients and their lack of power are exaggerated in the sense that...." The argument need not, and should not, be simplistic or one-dimensional; it may express a paradox, irony, contradiction, or puzzle about organizational activity.
- ◆ **Analysis of Data and Presentation of Evidence.** Use your experience in the organization as well as any additional data (newspaper articles, interviews, etc.) to

develop and provide evidence for your argument. Counter-evidence is also welcome, and often makes for a stronger or more credible argument.

C. Evaluations

There are two sets of evaluations that are required for this course:

- ◆ **Site Supervisor's Evaluation of student intern/organizational performance.** We will be sending out an evaluation form to your supervisor to ensure that you faithfully completed your volunteer hours and met organizational and supervisor expectations. We will place follow-up calls to remind your employer to respond in a timely manner. However, we encourage you to remind your supervisor as well. *You* do not want to risk getting an incomplete grade for the course because the supervisor has procrastinated! We can provide you with a copy of your evaluation if you would like it for your job search materials.
- ◆ **Student Evaluation of internship experience.** We ask that you fill out an evaluation of your internship, which will be put on file in the LSJ Advising Office and to be made available to other internship students. Your anonymity will be protected if so desired. The LSJ adviser will send you a copy of the evaluation as an email attachment or you may pick up an evaluation toward the end of the quarter at the advising office.

D. Meeting with Faculty Sponsor

You are required to meet at least twice with your faculty sponsor before the tenth week of the quarter. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss goals for the papers and how to relate them to the internship. Do not wait until the end of the quarter; the last week is a very busy period and too late to begin thinking about papers. This is as important as showing up for ordinary academic class sessions; failure to do so will jeopardize successful completion of the class and assignment of a passing grade. We urge you to meet once early in the quarter to talk about paper ideas and then again later in the quarter to discuss paper development.

Assignment Due Dates:

- ◆ **Site Supervisor evaluations are due at the Law, Society & Justice Advising Office in Gowen 42 by Monday, August 14th. They will be mailed directly to the site supervisor, who will mail them back to the LSJ Office.**
- ◆ **The two papers for the class - the Organizational Profile and the Analytical Paper -- and the student evaluation should be turned in together to your faculty sponsor by Monday, August 14th (the first day of Finals Week). Be sure to keep hard copies and electronic files of all papers for the class.**