

Syllabus – Fall Semester 2016

Best Practices for Justice **Prosecutors Working to Improve the Criminal Justice System** Professors Kristine Hamann and Patricia Riley

Thursday, 10 to Noon

- 1) Introduction and Overview of the Practicum (September 1, 2016)
 - Expectations for the class
 - Outline of course work and project work
 - Introduction to Prosecutors' Center for Excellence
 - The role of a prosecutor

- 2) Identification Procedures – Part 1 (September 8, 2016)
 - Introduction to eye witness identification issues
 - System Variables (police procedures and eliciting an identification from the witness)

- 3) Forensic Evidence – Part 1 (September 15, 2015)
 - What is DNA and how is it used in the criminal justice system?
 - DNA Laboratories - Triage and Quality Control

- 4) Forensic Evidence – Part 2 (September 22, 2016)
 - Trace evidence and pattern matching evidence (hair, fiber, fingerprints, ballistics)
 - Discussion of current and past practices.

- 5) Statements of the Accused - (September 29, 2016)
 - Miranda
 - Role of Deception
 - False confession experts
 - Video recording of interrogations
 - How to take a confession (NY example - People v. Thomas)

- 6) Identification Procedures – Part 2 (October 6, 2016)
 - Estimator Variables (factors at the crime scene, length of the observation, lighting, witness' focus, distance, etc.)
 - Memory in general

- 7) Digital Evidence – Part 1 (October 13, 2016)
 - Police Worn Cameras
 - Privacy vs. public safety
 - Meet a police officer, see the camera, watch sample videos.

- 8) Digital Evidence – Part 2 (October 20, 2016)
 - How digital evidence solves crime (cell phones, GPS, surveillance video, social media)
 - Privacy vs. public safety.

- 9) Prosecutorial Ethics – (October 27, 2016)
 - What are the rules and standards?
 - How do the standards compare with others in the legal profession?
 - Conviction Review Units

- 10) Witnesses Safety and Victim Support – (November 3, 2016)
 - Encouraging witnesses and victims to participate in the criminal justice system
 - Risks of witness intimidation
 - What services can be provided?

- 11) Crime Prevention and Building Community Trust - (November 10, 2016)
 - Prosecutors working with their community
 - How prosecutors can reduce crime

- 12) Student “Ted Talk” - (November 17, 2015)
 - Related to the issues above, the students will each pick a topic for a 15-minute presentation, followed by 15 minutes of discussion with the other students.

- 13) Student “Ted Talk” - (December 1, 2015)
 - Same as above.