

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW
SOCIAL JUSTICE LAWYERING
1L Elective Law 268R
WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS 11-12:20

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & FIRST CLASS ASSIGNMENT

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Required reading: MARTHA R. MAHONEY, JOHN O. CALMORE, AND STEPHANIE M. WILDMAN, SOCIAL JUSTICE: PROFESSIONALS, COMMUNITIES, AND LAW (2d ed. 2013); Course Materials (“CM”) available on TWEN; linked documents available online. Unless otherwise indicated, all page references are to the textbook.

Course Overview – This course examines four aspects of lawyering for social justice: (1) the experience of legal education; (2) the system of lawyers and delivery of legal services; (3) the system of law, including the set of rights it is possible to pursue through the legal system; and (4) the variety of ways that lawyers work with communities to create positive social change. The course serves as an introductory and overview course preliminary to more advanced study of specific areas of law and specific areas of legal need. The course meets the Social Justice Fundamentals Course required for students completing the Social Justice Concentration, but should be of interest to a broad number of students who want to think critically about legal education, law, lawyering, and social change.

A Syllabus will be available on TWEN in the week prior to the beginning of class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Bi-Weekly Reflection Papers (1-2 pages) Students will be assigned short writing assignments, due every other week in staggered dates except for the first assignment. **The first assignment is due the first day of class and is described below.** (An alternative assignment will be made available for those who join the class after the first day.) These papers require no outside research.

Analytical Book Review (6-8 pages) Students will write an analytical book review essay. Details for the review will be described in a subsequent memo.

Short Paper (6-8 pages) Students will choose from a list of topics.

Take Home Exam – The final exam will be a 24 hour take home exam. An example of a similar exam is available on TWEN, at the Course Materials tab.

Field Trips - We will take 1-2 field trips. The trips will be announced well in advance. Field trips that occur outside of regular class times are in lieu of a regularly scheduled class.

Class Participation– In addition to regular class attendance, meaningful class participation may be satisfied by engaging in regular and thoughtful contributions to class discussion that demonstrate preparation and a thorough reading of the assigned material. The course will mostly operate in a graduate seminar format requiring students to engage in thoughtful analysis of the reading. The course has a heavy reading load.

Disability Services –If you have a disability, or suspect that you may have a disability, the Law School encourages you to contact The Office of Disability Services for information about available opportunities, resources, and services. You may also visit the Office of Disability Services website at www.law.miami.edu/disability-services.

First Class Assignment - *Going to Law School*

The assignment consists of both a writing assignment and a reading assignment.

**COMPLETE THE WRITING ASSIGNMENT BEFORE YOU DO THE READING -
Writing Assignment Due First Day of Class (by class time)**

Things To Know About Law School (1-2 pages)¹

Find a quiet place where you will not be interrupted. Put your phone on airplane mode. You may find it easier to think if you close your eyes or if you direct your eyes downward. Think about the day you decided you wanted to go to law school or the first day of law school. What did you imagine the experience of law school would be like? How did you imagine yourself as an attorney? What work did you imagine that you would do? or How did you imagine it would feel to be an attorney? Try to remember how you *felt* as well as what you thought.

Now stop and write down a description of what you remembered. Do not edit until you complete the entire assignment. What you want at this step is to capture, as best you can, your recollections. These notes are for you. You will have an opportunity to share your thoughts in class, but you will not turn these notes in.

Now, think about how has your experience of law school been similar or dissimilar to what you imagined. Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give someone contemplating attending law school? What do you wish you had known? This paper is what you turn in. **You should bring your paper (1-2 pages) to class.** Do NOT exceed 2 pages.

The **reading** assignment is on the next page →

¹ Students who join the class after the first day will be given an alternative assignment.

Reading

- CM William Quigley, *Letter to a Law Student Interested in Social Justice*, 1(1) DEPAUL JOURNAL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE 7 (2007)
- CM Society of American Law Teachers (SALT), *Understanding Current Models for Social Justice Lawyering and Considering Alternatives*. (This is Chapter 3 in A CONSUMER GUIDE FOR THE SOCIAL JUSTICE-MINDED LAW STUDENT. The entire publication is available at <http://consumerguide.saltlaw.org/> .)
- CM Angela Harris, *Teaching the Tensions*, 54 ST. LOUIS U. L. J. 739 (2010), excerpt.