

JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIP SYLLABUS

Fall 2010
Thursday 9 – 9:55
Room 100A

Prof. Bradley
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TEXT

Rebecca Cochran, *Judicial Externships: The Clinic Inside the Courthouse*, (Lexis-Nexis 3rd ed. 2005).

CLASS GOALS

This class will introduce you to a variety of issues facing the judiciary, including judicial ethics, the role of law clerks, opinion writing, judicial selection, and judicial decision making. The class will give you also an opportunity to reflect on your experiences at your placement, and in so doing, increase the educational value of that experience. You will discuss your experiences with one another, giving you a sense of the wide variety of ways judges work, depending on the type of cases the court hears and the individual personality of each judge. The class will also be a forum to discuss professional, ethical, or other issues that may arise.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

You must complete the following activities during the semester to earn credit for this class and for your externship experience. **I will provide more details on each of the following in class.**

1. Field work

You must spend at least 100 hours working for your judge. Most of that time should be spent in the courthouse or the judge's chambers, although some work may be performed elsewhere with the judge's approval.

2. Written reflections

You must submit 3 written reflections during the semester.

3. Presentation to Class

You must make a presentation to the class about your externship experience.

4. Submit time sheets

You must periodically turn in time sheets showing the number of hours you have worked and the nature of your activities.

5. Class attendance and participation

You must attend class each week, read the assigned material before class, and participate in class discussions.

6. Attend one judicial activity outside your externship

You must attend at least one courtroom event in a court other than your own sometime during the semester.

7. Complete a short evaluation of your judge at the end of the semester.

GRADING

Classroom Component: You must complete the requirements listed above to pass the class. These are the points I will allocate to each requirement.

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS
3 Reflections	30
3 Timesheets	15
Presentation	30
Attendance and Participation.	15
Observation of Another Court	5
Evaluation of Your Judge	5
TOTAL POINTS	100

If you miss class or are habitually late, if you are unprepared, or if you do not make an effort to participate in class discussions, you will lose points for “Attendance and Participation.”

Field Placement: At the end of the semester I will ask your judge to complete an evaluation of your work. He or she will assign a grade on a “High Pass/Pass/Low Pass/Fail” basis. The evaluation form is posted on TWEN.

OFFICE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

I am happy to meet with you outside of class. You are welcome to stop by my office any time or schedule an appointment. I am generally available for appointments between 8:30 and 2:30, Monday through Friday, except when I am teaching. Email is the best way to contact me. My e-mail address is michele.bradley@uc.edu. I will not be available to answer e-mail messages or phone calls after I leave the College of Law in the afternoon.

I will communicate with you by e-mail to convey schedule and assignment changes and to provide other information of general interest to the class. **You must register for my TWEN website so that you will receive all pertinent information.** All information communicated via e-mail is considered to be available to all students, just as if it had been communicated in class. It is your responsibility to check your e-mail regularly.