

**California Judicial Administration Fellowship Program Seminar
PPA 298A
Fall 2022 Course Syllabus**

**California State University, Sacramento
Center for California Studies
304 S Street, Sacramento 95811
Office Hours: As scheduled.**

**Professor James Brighton
Email Address: james.brighton@csus.edu
Mobile Phone: (510) 693-1808 (text msgs)
Office Hours: (510) 526-1215**

Welcome: The purpose of this course is to provide academic perspective and to complement your experiential learning arising from placement in one of ten trial courts or judicial branch offices. The fall seminar blends academic theory with practice. The academic component will focus on judicial branch administrative history, structures, governance, policy development and judicial process supported by experiential learning. The overall goal is to acquire the knowledge needed to understand, evaluate and analyze the policies, practices, procedures and institutional role of the California judicial system. This will enhance your contribution to the judicial branch and to your court placement. In this era of pandemic, academic seminar is held two or three half days each month via Zoom hosted through the PPA 298 Canvas portal. Academic seminars will for the most part synchronize with your similarly scheduled field seminars. PPA 298 requires written and oral projects and papers as well as participation in online discussion forums. The fall semester provides both a pragmatic and theoretical foundation that culminates with a fall capstone paper due in December.

Catalog Description:

Critical examination and analysis of the administrative operation of the California judicial system and its structures, policies and practices. Note: Open only to students admitted to the Judicial Administration Fellowship Program.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. Understand the basic features of judicial branch institutional history, structure, governance, management and administration;
2. Describe and explain distinctive aspects of the California judicial system with particular focus on trial courts, trial court culture, court unification, state trial court funding, and judicial independence;
3. Understand and apply key institutional performance measures;
4. Employ research, writing and oral presentation skills.

Academic Seminar Format:

The seminar itself encompasses two or three half days each month, augmented by periodic online issues forums, and mandatory office hours. Seminar begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at noon with a 10 to 15-minute recess. Seminar is not a lecture class, although there is typically a short introduction to the material and a review of the class agenda. The seminar is discussion-based guided by study questions, presentations, group exercises, and role-playing scenarios utilizing the assigned readings, written assignments, case studies, and weekly forum issues. Fellows must be agents of their own learning and come prepared to share their ideas and engage intellectually with each other. And, most critically, they must demonstrate their ability to synthesize course content and link it to their placement and the larger environment. This is the essence of experiential learning.

Academic Seminar Participation:

Active participation is vital to the seminar learning environment and it is therefore required. Effective student engagement is predicated on completing and digesting all reading and writing assignments and it is, therefore, heavily weighted towards the final grade. Seminar engagement includes oral presentation and group facilitation - opportunities to personally develop a key professional skill and to build self-

**California Judicial Administration Fellowship Program Seminar
PPA 298A
Fall 2022 Course Syllabus**

confidence. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the seminar subject or topic by asking relevant questions, answering questions, providing reasonable explanations, and exploring connections to their workplace experience. Discussion and presentation should reflect a student's increased mastery over their newly acquired vocabulary (legal and technical terms) often unique to court administration. Seminar discussions, group exercises, team interactions and online forum discussions will be respectful and collegial.

Online Discussion Forum: This will commence in October and is a mandatory component of seminar participation. Topics will be posted weekly or more frequently to PPA 298 in accordance with a posting schedule to be published by the end of September for each student. The forum is intended to promote student interaction, deepen student learning, build class community, and increase student engagement. The role of courts in our society is evolving rapidly and on a daily basis some aspect of the judiciary appears in the news. The Online Discussion Forum provides a structured opportunity to identify and explore current (and sometimes perennial) issues involving courts, society, politics and by inference the administration of the judiciary.

Course Final Grades: Letter grades (A – F) are based on the following assignments:

Students are required to research and produce a minimum of 25 pages of written material for the fall semester.

(1) A series of papers and outlines on various seminar topics and issues	40%
(2) A fall capstone paper and presentation	30%
(3) Seminar participation, preparedness, discussion forum engagement	30%
	100%

Grading scale:

A:	≥ 94%
A-:	90 – 93.9%
B+:	87 – 89.9%
B:	84 – 86.9%
B-:	80 – 83.9%
C+:	77 – 79.9%
C:	74 – 76.9%
C-:	70 – 73.9%
D+:	67 – 69.9%
D:	64 – 66.9%
D-:	60 – 63.9%
F:	≤ 59.9%

Attendance and Participation Policy:

Attendance and participation in seminar, office hour attendance and completion of all academic assignments are mandatory. Acceptance of admission into the Judicial Administration Fellowship Program is a commitment to attend each class session and a commitment to be prepared for active discussion. Failure to fulfill the terms of the academic program, failure to perform in a professional manner, plagiarism, unauthorized absences, and chronic tardiness at seminar, office hours or office placement will be cause for prompt administrative review and may result in termination from the program or other sanctions. In addition to attendance and “seat time,” the quality of preparation for and participation in class discussions will be reflected in grading.

**California Judicial Administration Fellowship Program Seminar
PPA 298A
Fall 2022 Course Syllabus**

Required Texts - Fall and Spring Semesters:

Plain English for Lawyers, 6th Edition - Wydick & Sloan
Judicial Council Style Guide - June 2021
Understanding and Managing Public Organizations, 6th Edition - Rainey
Trial Courts as Organizations - Ostrom, et al.
The Art and Practice of Court Administration – Aikman
American Court Management – Saari (located in PPA 298A Reader)
Overview of Court Administration in the United States – Tobin (Located in Fall PPA 298 Reader)
These Estimable Courts: Understanding Public Perceptions of State Judicial Institutions and Legal Policy-Making – Cann and Yates
A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis - Bardach
Street-Level Bureaucracy: Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Services – Lipsky
Online Courts and the Future of Justice - Susskind
Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption – Stevenson
Good Courts: The Case for Problem Solving Justice – Berman and Feinblatt – **You will need to purchase the Kindle version from Amazon for \$8.99 for your first assignments.**

Required Selected Readings: See PPA 298A Fall Reader Monthly Seminar Readings and Assignments posted to PPA 298 via Canvas. There are extensive non-textbook readings located there as well.

Communication, Canvas: University email boxes quickly become cluttered – and important messages from me are sometimes overlooked. Moreover, increasingly courts and other judicial branch entities use email filters that can prevent you from receiving email from or accessing ‘external’ sites like the Canvas portal for email, assignments, readings, discussion forum and so forth. Despite these challenges, assignments, grades, and substantive academic communication will be conducted exclusively via email and the Canvas portal.

Paper Requirements and Deadlines

At least one paper or outline or both will be due for each fall seminar – the paper length will vary from 3 to 5 or more pages depending upon the material to be covered. The capstone paper instructions are treated separately below. **Seminar papers and all other writings are due in accordance with the following schedule (and subject to change).** Papers are to be emailed to the address on the first page of this syllabus. Late papers will not be accepted but for extenuating circumstances.

Seminar Assignment Due Dates:

Seminar Dates	Assignment Due Dates
September 15 and 16	September 13
October 13 and 14	October 11
November 17 and 18	November 15
December 13	Capstone Paper due
December 15 and 16	Capstone Presentations

Drafting and Format Requirements (Details matter to me.):

Writing is a craft and requires practice. Stick to the topic or title that has been assigned, answer the question, draw from the material in the course, marshal your evidence, and draft and redraft and redraft again. Here are the drafting and format requirements.

**California Judicial Administration Fellowship Program Seminar
PPA 298A
Fall 2022 Course Syllabus**

1. Double-space the paper with 1.25" margins.
2. 12 point Times New Roman font.
3. Upper left corner of the first page single-spaced: Your Name, Title of Course: PPA 298 - CSUS, My Name, Title of Paper: _____, Date Submitted: October XX, 2020.
4. Paginate.
5. If a title page or citation page is used, do not count it towards the length of the essay or paper.
6. Judicial Council Style Guide for all seminar papers: See Section 9.3 for citations to books, journals, social media, and so forth. **Capstone paper requires APA citation style.**
7. **Electronic format is MS Word. Other formats will be rejected. No Google Docs.**
8. **File-naming Conventions - this is strictly enforced: Last name - Month - Title (e.g., Outlines; e.g., Pound Paper, etc.)**
9. **Outlines: Reading outlines are submitted in one document. The format, structure and content are of your choosing. The outlines should demonstrate you have read the material – schematic is fine – they are for your use.**
10. **Citations: Use the formats noted in the following examples. Citations are required using the simplified forms that I have adopted.**

Seminar and Capstone Papers Documentation (Citations): You are obligated to document the source or sources you use when writing your papers. This includes all sources consulted but not referenced in your writings. Follow these simplified citation guidelines and examples:

1. For seminar papers and the capstone, use Endnotes with full citations following the numerous examples below for citation format and style. NB: This requires you to keep careful and complete notes of the sources you consult.
2. For the capstone also include a Bibliography. Notes precede the Bibliography

Examples:

¹ Judicial Council Public Affairs. "Court Users Flock to Self-Help Centers." *California Courts Newsroom*, 19 April 2017, <https://newsroom.courts.ca.gov/news/court-users-flock-to-self-help-centers>. Accessed 22 November 2017.

¹Rainey, Hal G. *Understanding and Managing Public Organizations*. Jossey-Bass, 2021, p 140.

¹ Saari, David J. *American Court Management*. Quorum Books, 1982, p. 13.

¹ Aikman, Alexander B. *The Art and Practice of Court Administration*. Taylor & Francis Group LLC, 2007, p. 200.

¹Susskind, Richard E. *Online Courts and the Future of Justice*. Oxford University Press, 2019, p. 85.

¹ Lipsky, Michael. *Street-Level Bureaucracy: Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Services*. Russell Sage Foundation, 1980, p.120.

¹ Berman, Greg, John Feinblatt, and Sarah Glazer. *Good Courts: The Case for Problem-solving Justice*. E-book ed., New Press, 2015. Kindle.

**California Judicial Administration Fellowship Program Seminar
PPA 298A
Fall 2022 Course Syllabus**

¹ Park, Kyung H. "Judicial Elections and Discrimination in Criminal Sentencing." Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago, 3 April 2014, p.1, http://home.uchicago.edu/~kpark1/docs/Dissertation_Chapter2.pdf. Accessed 11 Dec. 2017.

¹ Ostrom, Brian J. and Roger A. Hanson. "Understanding Court Culture is Key to Successful Court Reform." *Future Trends in State Courts*, 2010, p.55.

¹ Ostrom, Brian J. et al. *Trial Courts as Organizations*. Temple University Press, 2007, p. 141.

¹ Ostrom, Brian J. et al. *Trial Courts as Organizations*. (2007): p. 142.

¹ Cann, Damon M. and Jeff Yates. *These Estimable Courts*. Oxford University Press, 2016, p. 6.

¹ Cann, Damon M. and Jeff Yates. *These Estimable Courts*. (2016): p. 6.

¹ Cann, Damon M. and Jeff Yates. *These Estimable Courts*. (2016): p. 19

Critical Writing and Thinking Guidelines for All Assignments and Papers:

Bearing in mind the importance of the written word in the court setting (and academia), the following evaluative criteria are used when marking seminar papers. Note that content, clarity and conciseness are heavily weighted, and plagiarism is grounds for dismissal. The best papers demonstrate that the writer has thought hard and seriously about the readings, has come to conclusions that reflect relevant information and ideas and evidence, and make a logical connection between these and the writer's own carefully considered experiential learning. Before submitting each paper use the following as a finalization checklist.

Organization (25 points)

1. Introduction clear (i.e., Early on you explain what this paper will tell me.);
2. Clearly worded thesis statement early in paper (e.g., first or second paragraph);
3. One main point per sentence;
4. Topic sentences in paragraphs (one main point per paragraph) that together will support your thesis;
5. Support (body) paragraphs fully developed and unified;
6. Smooth, logical transition between paragraphs;
7. Conclusion summarizes main points and restates thesis.

Content (50 points)

1. Appropriate title;
2. Supporting paragraphs strongly support the thesis with evidence such as facts, statistics, experiential examples, and, importantly, connections and reference to assigned readings;
3. Paper content is the assigned length;
4. Appropriate word choice and technical vocabulary are used.

**California Judicial Administration Fellowship Program Seminar
PPA 298A
Fall 2022 Course Syllabus**

Format, Grammar, Mechanics (25 or more points)

1. Sentence completeness (no run-ons, comma splices, split infinitives or sentence fragments, etc.);
2. Paragraph completeness (no run-ons or incoherent thoughts strung together);
3. Comma usage as necessary in compound sentences;
4. Apostrophe usage correct, e.g., possessive case
5. Grammar
6. Verb usage;
7. Spelling;
8. Vocabulary;
9. Numbers and calculations used correctly in text.

Use *Plain English for Lawyers* for punctuation, clarity, conciseness, word choice, sentence structure and so forth. Use the *Judicial Council Style Guide* for general guidance and general reference - most likely in your workplace setting, e.g., correspondence, titles of judges and other officials and for areas not covered by Wydick.

The Fall Capstone Paper (Due December 13. Presentations at December 15 and 16 Seminars)

The fall capstone paper will provide you with an early opportunity to independently study an area of interest related to courts that you may have identified either in your application to the Fellowship or in your interview or that has arisen since then. **At first seminar, be prepared to discuss topics of interest as this will enable you to more quickly delve into a subject that interests you and has some connection to judicial administration.** You will be accorded a fair degree of latitude given the broad scope of this discipline. At the October 13 and 14 seminar you will declare your topic - subject to changing circumstances. The fall capstone research and writing experience may serve as an important step towards preparing for your spring capstone paper. As noted below, some students may find that by establishing a connection between these papers, they are able to incorporate or repurpose aspects of the fall capstone paper in their spring capstone paper. For example, some past students have successfully used their fall capstone paper as a literature and research review, in part, for their spring capstone paper. And some have used their fall papers, in part, as a means of advancing their research plan for a spring capstone paper.

What is Expected of the Fall Capstone Paper Be advised, primary research (surveys, interviews, facilitated expert meetings, etc.) can be quite time consuming and an early start is advised. You will decide which research question or questions you wish to explore, and which elements best meet your interests and the needs of your paper - a review of literature and research is a good starting point. That said, the fall capstone paper should be a minimum of 15 to 20 pages (frequently they are longer). To the extent possible, the paper should attempt to reflect your interests, what you have learned or are hoping to learn from your placement experience and, importantly, the knowledge you are gaining through seminar readings and discussions. Your placements and interests are very diverse - so each paper is expected to have unique characteristics and unique challenges. One challenge we all face is the discontinuous nature of our seminar schedule and our infrequency of contact. For some this may be a contributing factor to the pace and direction with which the fall capstone paper will progress. To help address this specific issue, mandatory office hours by telephone or Zoom will be scheduled monthly throughout the semester. I am also available as needed for consultation.

Fall Capstone and Spring Capstone Papers: You may use (reuse, repurpose) whatever content of your fall capstone paper that is relevant to the spring capstone paper due in May. I would not expect the repurposed information to exceed 20 percent of the paper.

California Judicial Administration Fellowship Program Seminar
PPA 298A
Fall 2022 Course Syllabus

Capstone Paper Section Headings and Content: I have prepared the following list of seven headings and **general content descriptions** for each section of your capstone paper to provide some guidance for those who may not have had experience in writing or structuring a lengthy paper. The specific content and headings will vary from paper to paper according to your topic and the direction you have taken.

I. Title

II. Abstract (short summary of your topic, what question or questions you were seeking answers to - less than 50 words)

III List of Contents: The list (or table of contents) should follow the section headings below or as otherwise contained in your paper. Include sub-headings or sub-sections if you are using them.

IV Introduction: This is an expansion of the abstract. It should also include whether you have changed the original direction or focus of your paper and what caused that to occur. (Time, lack of information, lack of support, change in interest, and so forth.) If the fall capstone topic is likely to be linked in some way to the spring capstone, note that here as well.

V. Literature Review and Analysis: One or multiple sections depending on the number and complexity of topics covered - probably only one section for most papers. You are encouraged to use our textbooks and seminar material as part of the literature review and analysis.

- Describe what is already known about the subject or topic of your paper.
- Evaluate the literature (is it superannuated (old), irrelevant, non-existent, differentiated in some way, is it from an out of state court, not a trial court, a different discipline, etc).
- Describe the relationship of your paper to this earlier material: studies, reports, texts, articles, etc. For example, if the material is out of date, your work is likely to bring some aspect of it up to date, or create new information, or correct old information, or bring new insights.

VI. Methodology and Data

- If you collected data, what kind of data (secondary sources, interviews, records, surveys, etc. did you collect)? If you did not collect data, then do not have a methodology and data chapter!
- Why was this data selected (it addressed the question by _____, it was available, I had access and consent, I was limited in time, it appeared to be representative, it had been used by others, etc.).
- What additional data would you have preferred but did not have access to or time to collect?
- If you collected data, how was it analyzed, and what conclusions, if any, did you form regarding the data?

VII Final Chapter (Conclusions and Summary of Analysis)

- What questions did you answer or analyze and what are the answers? Both the questions and answers may be very different from the ones you began with. Describe any phenomenon or information that surprised you or caused you to reconsider preconceptions or early hypotheses (pretty much these would be your initial questions or focus).
- You should be able to link your analysis to the literature review (previous knowledge). Pound, Saari, Aikman, Tobin, Yates, Ostrom, Berman, Lipsky, Rainey, Susskind and others whose writings we will have studied clearly fall into the category of previous knowledge and should be

**California Judicial Administration Fellowship Program Seminar
PPA 298A
Fall 2022 Course Syllabus**

referenced and integrated into your analysis and conclusions as appropriate. There are numerous important article readings required for seminar in addition to the texts noted in the syllabus. Use them as resources throughout your studies and apply them effectively in your papers.

- What have you learned from your experience preparing the capstone paper? And if you were pursuing a policy issue or practice - are there implications or recommendations? You are expected to have learned lessons from the capstone experience. Some of those lessons are likely to include the degree of difficulty you encountered in obtaining information, in scaling the scope of your paper, the paucity of literature on the subject, the reliability of and access to certain categories of information, e.g., criminal justice, juvenile justice, mental health, drug treatment, data external to the court, and private or confidential or protected information. These experiences should influence the approach you will take with your spring capstone paper due in May. Here is a schedule to help guide the development of your fall capstone paper. **See Capstone Paper Development Schedule below.**

PPA 298 Fall Capstone Paper Development Schedule	
Due Date	Deliverable
September 15 - in Seminar	Discuss fall capstone topic interests
September 16 in Seminar	Tentatively select fall capstone topic considering the above guidance.
September 23	Confirm topic. A one paragraph summary is due. This leaves approximately 2.5 months before the paper is due.
October Office Hours TBA	Capstone Progress Check-in
November 17 in Seminar	Outline of Capstone Paper (like an annotated table of contents). Breakout Room Discussions and Peer Review. Paper due in about a month.
November Office Hours TBA	Progress check-in (e.g., literature review, data plan, draft progress, etc.)
Prior to Submission	Draft Capstone Paper Peer Review (include with final paper)
December 13	Capstone Paper Due
December 15 and 16 in Seminar	Capstone Paper Presentations