Street Law & Community Development Practicum
Polt-413 Syllabus

Oberlin College Department of Politics
Visiting Instructor Angela A. Wu, aawu@oberlin.edu, +1-440-935-4518
Spring 2014 (2 credits, no auditing, enrollment by instructor consent)
Course meetings Tuesdays 7-9PM (location TBD)
Teaching practicum at Oberlin High School based upon team availability -- tentative schedule is one of the
following: Thu/Fri 3rd period (9:53-10:38), 5th A period (12:05-12:50), 8th period (2:32-3:17)
Office hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The Street Law course at Oberlin High School introduces teens to practical law. It is part of the work of
non-profit Oberlin Street Law (http://oberlinstreetlaw.org), which partners college and community members to
generate creative strategies that address issues and injustices affecting us all. Oberlin College undergraduates
taking Street Law & Community Development in the Politics Department will engage in a teaching and lawyering
practicum. They will develop their own pedagogies based upon integrated personal and theoretical reflection
about their relationship with the texts and what they are experiencing in the high school classroom. We will be
challenged to develop a broad definition of law and lawyering that allows us to give direction to our work in the
community. We will also develop fluency with a variety of arts-based pedagogical techniques such as Theater of
the Oppressed, a body of theatrical tools that includes elements of role play, to further our reflection on what
law is and how we would like to implement it.

GRADING: Lesson Plans/Teaching: 40%
Weekly Writing Assignments, Including Final Exam: 30%
Collaborative Participation/Effort: 30%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
• Tuesday Evening Seminar/Reading - During Spring 2014, undergraduates will meet from 7-9PM. This
time is somewhat variable. We may not need to meet the full two hours. The seminar will include
lecture, presentations, discussion of reading/writing assignments, vetting of lesson plans, and practice
of interactive and artistic techniques.
• Lesson Plans/Teaching - Undergraduates will teach at Oberlin High School, 281 North Pleasant Street,
in teams of two at least once a week. Team lesson plans will be submitted via email to instructor in
advance of Tuesday evening seminar and 7 hard copies will be brought to seminar to be vetted with
classmates and rehearsed.
• Weekly Writing Assignments - Every week by Sunday evening 11:59PM, undergraduates will submit
via email to instructor a writing assignment based upon a prompt facilitating personal reflection and
pedagogy development relative to course texts and practicum. The final exam is a writing assignment
given to students on the last day of seminar that inspires individual reflection on what has been learned
throughout the course.
• Collaborative Participation/Effort - Consistency and thoughtfulness of participation in each of the
above course requirements and respectful collaboration with fellow seminar members is an important
component of the course.

COURSE POLICIES:
Honor Code: Oberlin College’s student-created, student-run Honor Code is vital to the integrity of the work
that all of us do in the institution. Acknowledging the influence of others and understanding the academic
customs of showing one’s sources are highly valued skills of liberal arts learning. You can find the code online at the college web site: http://new.oberlin.edu/students/policies/11-Policies-Honor.pdf. One requirement of the code is that you must write the following statement on every assignment: “I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment.” You must also sign your name to that statement. Typing your full name after the Honor Code will serve as a signature if you submit an assignment electronically.

Access for Students with Dis/abilities: If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Office of Disability Services in Peters G-27/G-28.

Late Work: Work will lose 1 full letter grade for each calendar day late. If you need an extension, please contact me at least 24 hours in advance.

Attendance: If you miss more than 2 classes, for any reason, your final grade will be lowered by 1/3 for each absence. Lateness to class meetings is disrespectful of your colleagues’ time. Lateness will be factored into your grade for collaborative participation and effort.

Format: Please format all writing assignments for this class in 12-point Times font with 1 inch margin on all sides, double-spaced, pages numbered, stapled (if in hard copy), and including Works Cited (MLA format). (The majority of my Course Policies have been borrowed word-for-word from Professor Fiskio.)

READING MATERIALS
All course texts below on Reserve at Mudd or available from instructor electronically.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Tuesday, February 4 -- No Seminar/Reading -- Instructor will be selecting students for the course.

Tuesday, February 11

Tuesday, February 18

Tuesday, February 25

Tuesday, March 4

Tuesday, March 11

Tuesday, March 18

Tuesday, March 25 -- No seminar or teaching -- SPRING BREAK

Tuesday, April 1
Reading: Rebellious Lawyering, Chs. 2-3.

Tuesday, April 8
Reading: Pedagogy of the Oppressed Chs. 2-3.

Tuesday, April 15
Reading: Rebellious Lawyering Chs. 4-5, Epilogue.
Tuesday, April 22
Reading: Pedagogy of the Oppressed Ch. 4.

Tuesday, April 29
Reading: TBD

Tuesday, May 6
Final Exam and Evaluation