

SOC 303 Immersion in Juvenile Social and Legal Justice

2nd Session Summer June 23 – July 25, 2025 (3 credits)

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SYLLABUS & COURSE SCHEDULE

Welcome to the 2025 summer course, Immersion in Juvenile Social and Legal Justice with Professor Van Wyk and the good people at several juvenile service institutions in Rhode Island. This is a one-of-a-kind experience that will profoundly augment your academic experience at the University of Rhode Island.

It's a five-week summer course, during which you'll meet in a face-to-face classroom setting on the Kingston campus once per week, and one or two days each week you'll be on location immersed in RI juvenile social and legal justice agencies. ***You must have your own reliable transportation*** for the 5-week course.

Course assignments include journaling, weekly assessments, and a career paper. In the face-to-face classes, we'll be learning about various helping organizations in the state, career opportunities, laws, theories, and processes. The class will include lectures, discussion, practice, and experiential learning, and we'll have guest speakers.

This course counts toward elective major or minor credits in Sociology or Criminology & Criminal Justice. It also counts toward the interdisciplinary minor in [Social Justice & Civic Responsibilities](#) (SJCR). This minor is housed in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION: (3 crs.) Experiential course explores social and legal justice for juveniles in RI. Practice applying sociological concepts to analyze agency goals and programming efforts, exploration of career and internship opportunities. (Practicum) Pre: Permission of instructor.

OBJECTIVES

This is a great opportunity to learn about how all those theories you learned about in core courses in Sociology, Criminology, Criminal Justice, Psychology, Political Science, or Human Development translate into public policies, and how they guide aspects of the juvenile justice system in the real world. You will also be learning about philosophies that underlie rehabilitation and diversionary programs. It is an opportunity to explore various career options for working with troubled youth. You will hear presentations from experts in the field, shadow case workers, teachers, and students; visit with a family court judge, program staff, and past residents; and learn program philosophies directly from the people who design and implement them. For a full description of the week's events, see the course schedule in the final pages of this document.

OUTCOMES

- You'll be able to *apply* Sociological (and other) theories to understand social phenomena.
- You'll be able to *use* Sociological knowledge to inform policy debates and promote public understanding.
- You'll be able to *utilize* what you learn in this course in internships and careers.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- You're required to fully participate in every aspect of this course as missing classes or experiences significantly impacts your course grade.
- You're required to pass and pay for your own background checks.
- We may be required to wear face masks in the presence of others throughout the course, so please be prepared for that.
- You must have your own reliable transportation.
- If you have a job, you are required to make arrangements with your employer in advance of the course so that you do not miss anything in the course.
- You are responsible for your own housing during the summer session.

PRIVACY ISSUES: The recipients of services in the programs that you will visit during the course have rights to privacy that must be maintained. Hence, no photographs or filming of events are permitted. Likewise, the information you receive about program participants, especially juveniles, and your communications with them must remain confidential to the course participants. You will learn more about these issues in the first class meeting.

REQUIRED READING: You are required to read a couple chapters from one book (Grebstein, Lawrence C. and Judy A. Van Wyk. (2016). *Turning the Tides of Male Juvenile Delinquency: The Ocean Tides Approach*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company), and it's available in the Brightspace course site. You'll also read several short articles about the facilities we'll visit. These are also available in the course Brightspace during the course. Some research is required to complete career paper.

BRIGHTSPACE: All course materials are available in the course Brightspace site, and you'll be turning things in for grading there. Course announcements will be posted on Brightspace that go directly to your URI email, so be sure to access Brightspace and your URI email accounts long before the semester begins.

ASSESSMENT

Grade Distribution: A=93-100%, A- = 90-92%, B+ = 87-89%, B=83-86%, B- = 80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C- = 70-72%, D+ = 67-69%, D = 60-66%, F <60% (Pass/fail grading is not available for this course).

You will receive five grades, one each week that combines everything for the week (class meetings, in-class assessments, journaling, and experiential learning). These five grades will be averaged together for your course grade. In class assessment/attendance and journal grades will be posted in assignments on Brightspace.

Schedule Outline

	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri.</i>
Week 1 June 23-27	Class meets 12-2	Blue/OT & Yellow/TFS	Everyone Prov. Court	Journal due	
Week 2 June 30-July 3	Class meets 12-2	Yellow/OT & Blue/TFS		Journal due	
Week 3 July 7-11	Class meets 12-2		Everyone at the RITS	Journal due	
Week 4 July 14-18	Class meets 12-2	Blue /OT & Yellow/TFS		Journal due	
Week 5 July 21-25		Blue/TFS & Yellow/OT		Journal due Class meets 12-2	Career paper is due

GRADING EXAMPLE: Week 1, Group Blue

<i>Graded component</i>	<i>Points possible</i>	<i>Hypothetical points earned</i>
Class attendance/assessment	100	100
Placement experience Tues.	100	100
Placement experience Wed.	100	0 (did not attend)
Journaling	100	80
	Week 1 Grade	70%

GRADING COMPONENTS

FACE-TO-FACE CLASS MEETINGS ON THE URI KINGSTON CAMPUS: We'll be meeting in Chafee 501 for two hours each week from 12:00 – 2:00 pm (and for a final class meeting, see schedule). In class, we'll be learning about formal and informal juvenile social and legal justice systems in RI, state and Federal laws and regulations, and related delinquency theories. We will also have guest presenters.

WEEKLY ASSESSMENTS: Each week during our class meetings, you will complete an assessment of your learning from readings and experiences. This will count as your attendance/assessment grade for that class. In the Brightspace gradebook, attendance/assessment grades are entered as percentages, not points. So, for any given day, you'll receive from 0-100%. If you attend class, you'll have 100% for that and if you earn 100% on the day's learning assessment, then you will have a total of 100% for that day. Let's say you are in class but score 82% on the learning assessment. These scores are averaged together for your day's grade. This would give you $100 \text{ (for attendance)} + 82 \text{ (for your assessment score)} = 182/200$ (possible points) = .91 (91%) for the day. Learning assessments include information from all sources up to the assessment dates.

EXPERIENTIAL PLACEMENTS: You'll be assigned to a group of 5 students (Blue or Yellow), and you'll follow the schedule for your group. Your weekly grade will be based on your participation and attendance. You will not have the opportunity to switch groups or placement locations/times/dates. You are expected to be where you are assigned to be on time and fully participate in the day's activities. On some days, you may be required to drive yourself to more than one location at different times of the day.

PERSONAL JOURNAL: You will complete and upload a journal entry into "assignments" in the course Brightspace site every Thursday by 10:00 pm. during the 5-week long semester. Each one should be approximately one page in length (single-spaced, normal font and margins). Use/reference and citation information from sources that you are required to read for the course. Cite and reference ideas. You may cite and reference speakers in the program, but you also need to use the reading materials. Journal entries describe your experiences in the course; draw comparisons between preconceived expectations for the week and actual experience; apply knowledge from the reading; describe what you learned and pose questions that may arise. Our class meetings are a good time to discuss these things. Journal entries can also include information learned from previous courses.

CAREER PAPER: You are going to be introduced to a multitude of different career options that all require different kinds of academic and experiential preparation. You'll complete an assignment that explores a career option that you were introduced to during the course. Specific instructions for this assignment are be posted in the Brightspace course site under "assignments," and we will be discussing the assignment during class meetings. This assignment will be turned in to Brightspace "Assignments".

PLACEMENT LOCATIONS

Experiential placements will be spent at various Rhode Island institutions. Please arrive where you need to be on time. Provide yourself plenty of time to find parking, especially when we go to the courthouse!

- Ocean Tides School in Narragansett, 635 Ocean Road, Narragansett, RI (<http://www.oceantides.org/>)
- Tides Family Services (<http://tidesfs.org/>)
 - West Warwick, 215 Washington St.
 - Providence, 790 Broad St.
 - Pawtucket, 242 Dexter St.
- Providence Court House, Family Court, 1 Dorrance St., Providence, RI
- Rhode Island Training School (RITS) 57 Power Rd., Cranston, RI

MEALS & SNACKS

Some meals and refreshments are provided for you during the placements so please refer to the course schedule for details. If you have any food issues/allergies, it would be a good idea to bring your own snacks. Meals at Ocean Tides always include a salad bar option.

ATTIRE

For every class meeting and every placement experience, you will be meeting with experts in their field. You'll want to make a good impression. Dress business casual, which means tastefully dressed, like what *most* of your professors wear to classes – no logos or words on clothing, jeans are okay, but absolutely no holes or tears in them. A nice shirt/sweater... No cropped clothing. You'll want to wear comfortable shoes. A backpack is probably best to bring. You may bring a laptop/tablet with you. At least have a small notebook and pen with you throughout the course.

When you go to the Providence Courthouse, you will pass through a metal detector. It is best not to bring anything with you except your keys, wallet/small purse, and cell phone. While you are in the courtroom, your cell phone must be completely shut off.

DETAILED SCHEDULE

Week 1: June 23-27

Reading to complete by the end of the week

- APA Guide
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html. “In-Text Citations: The Basics,” and “Reference List: Basic Rules”
- How to get an A series handouts titled “Citation and Referencing” and “Common Grammar Issues”
- Grebstein & Van Wyk (2016) Chapter 1: Ocean Tides Rising: History
- Journal Instructions
- About the Family Court
- Ocean Tides Fact Sheet
- Tides Family Services Training Manual
- Tides Family Services Fact Sheet

Monday, June 23: Face-to-face class meets on the URI Kingston campus, Chafee 501, 12:00-2 (Guest speaker from URI office of Experiential and Career Services, Audra Lavoie)

Tuesday, June 24:

- Group Blue is at the Ocean Tides school from 7:45 am to 2:30 pm
- Group Yellow is at Tides Family Services 1:15 pm to 8:30 pm

Wednesday, June 25: Everyone will meet up with Prof. Van Wyk outside at the entrance of the Providence Family courthouse at 7:45 am. Event ends at 12:00 pm. Be aware that it is difficult to find parking so leave yourself plenty of time for that. You'll likely have to pay for parking (around \$13). You may want to carpool with others from the class.

Thursday, June 26: Everyone's journals are due to Brightspace by 10 pm

Week 2: June 30 – July 3

Reading to complete by the end of this week

- How to get an A series Handouts “Apply the Reading,” and “Paraphrasing”
- TFS Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice 2018
- TFS Youth Transition Center
- TFS Parenting Style Assessment
- TFS Family Focused Counseling
- Grebstein & Van Wyk (2016) Chapter 2: Who are these boys?
- Career Paper Assignment instructions

Monday, June 30: Face-to-face class meets in Chafee 501, 12:00-2:00 (Guest speaker from RI Department of Children, Youth, and Families ((DCYF)), Jessica Nash)

Tuesday, July 1:

- Group Yellow is at the Ocean Tides school from 7:45 am to 2:30 pm
- Group Blue is at Tides Family Services 1:15 – 8:30 pm

Wednesday, July 2: Everyone's journals are due to Brightspace by 10 pm

Week 3: July 7-11

Readings to complete by the end of this week

- How to get an A series handouts: “Reading for Understanding,” and “Answer Short Answer Questions”
- TFS Coercive Cycle Worksheet
- TFS Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Exercise
- TFS Functional Analysis of Targeted Behavior
- Differential Association Theory
- Self-Control Theory
- Grebstein & Van Wyk (2016) Chapter 9: Stem the tide: Case histories

Monday, July 7: Face-to-face class meets in Chafee 501, 12:00-2:00 (Guest speakers, Narragansett Police Department Special Agent Detective John Silveira and Peter Slom)

Wednesday, July 9: Everyone will meet up with Prof. Van Wyk outside at the entrance of the Rhode Island Training School at 1:00 pm. Parking is easy there, but the building is a little tricky to find. Event ends at 3:00 pm. We'll take a tour directed by Training Specialist John Scott and learn about the RITS programs.

Thursday, July 10: Everyone's journals are due to Brightspace by 10 pm

Week 4: July 14-18

Readings to complete by the end of this week

- TFS Providing Supervision
- TFS SFBT Training
- TFS What is Supervision?
- DCYF Fact Sheet
- General Strain Theory
- Techniques of Neutralization

Monday, July 14: Face-to-face class meets in Chafee 501, 12:00-2:00 (Guest speakers, from Ocean Tides, Director of Staff, Ryan Carreau, and Ocean Tides Alum, Owner of United Parking LLC Kenneth Zorabedian)

Tuesday, July 15

- Group Blue is at the Ocean Tides school from 9:45 am to 7:00 pm
- Group Yellow is at Tides Family Services 1:30 – 8:30 pm

Thursday, July 17: Everyone's journals are due to Brightspace by 10 pm

Week 5: July 21-25

Read by the end of this week

- Bronfenbrenner's Socio-Ecological Model
- Karl Marx & Conflict Theory, Crash Course Sociology video #6
- Agnew's General Theory of Crime

Tuesday, July 22

- Group Yellow is at the Ocean Tides school from 9:45 am to 7:00 pm
- Group Blue is at Tides Family Services 1:30 – 8:30 pm

Thursday, June 24:

- Class meets (12:00-2:00)
 - Guest speaker from Tides Family Services to discuss staff positions and internships at Tides Family Services
 - Wrap up the course
- Everyone's journals are due to Brightspace by 10 pm

Friday, July 25: Career papers are due to Brightspace "Assignments" no later than by 10 pm.

During the course, each group will visit Ocean Tides twice and Tides Family Services twice. See the detailed schedule on the next page.

At Ocean Tides

At Tides Family Services

At Ocean Tides		At Tides Family Services	
First visit	Second visit	First visit	Second visit
7:45 am arrive at Ocean Tides in Narragansett and park in lot. Meet with Director Brian Sullivan at the entrance of the Chapel.	9:45 am arrive at OT in Narr. and park in lot. Proceed through building to Director’s office to meet with Brian Sullivan	1:15 pm arrive at W. Warwick Tides Family Services (TFS) location and park in lot. Head inside and staff will show to the meeting room.	1:30 pm arrive at W. Warwick Tides Family Services (TFS) location and park in lot. Prof. Van Wyk will meet you just inside the front door.
8-9 Introduction to OT & discussion with Director Brian Sullivan	10:00 am – 12:00 pm Paired w/resident to shadow in his classes.	1:30-4:00 pm meet Tides Family Services Director, Beth Lemme-Bixby, MSW, LICSW, CEO and staff	1:45-4:00 pm Presentation on Practical application of family systems theory by Jenna Chaplin, MSW, LICSW, Clinical Director
9-10 Tour of Ocean Tides <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The La Salle tradition • Trauma-Informed Care • Policies managing residential care of juveniles 	12-1:00 pm Lunch at Ocean Tides (provided by OT) w/Ocean Tides Staff members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessica Pawlowski, MSW, LICSW, CEO • Rachel Yoder, MSW, LICSW, VP of Treatment Programs 	Meredith Correia, BSW, Director of Treatment Programs
10-12 Students are paired with a teacher to shadow in their classes	1:00- end of school day, visit with the school Principal and the Director of Social Work	Introduction to TFS & Presentations	(Snacks provided by TFS)
12-1 Lunch at Ocean Tides (provided by OT) w/Ocean Tides Staff members	3:30-6:45 pm Students hang with the boys and staff members in after school activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Tides Ecological Perspective,” by Rachael Yoder, MSW, LICSW, & TFS Vice President; and Jessica Pawlowski, MSW, LICSW, & CEO 	4:00-4:45 pm Students drive from the W. Warwick location to the Providence TFS. Park in the lot across the street. The drive would be a good time to pick up something fast for dinner.
1:15-2:30 pm. Meet with Ocean Tides staff, (title) Students review resident case files to learn about history, interaction with system of care, psychological counseling, psychiatric status, legal history, and research on delinquent boys.	Dinner with staff.	(Snacks provided by TFS)	4:45-8:30 pm: Students are paired with clinicians and shadow them in Home Based Clinical Services (organized by Jenna Rowles). They will leave their own vehicles at Providence TFS
		4:00-4:45 pm Students drive to the Providence TFS location, park across the street in TFS lot and go inside to meet staff. The drive would be a good time to pick up something fast for dinner along the way. Bring cash.	
		4:45-8:30 pm Shadow Providence Rundowns (PFN and TYC-group will be split up). Students shadow Outreach and Tracking/clinical staff	8:30 pm Students are returned to their cars parked at the Providence TFS parking lot and dismissed.

(Rachel Yoder and Jerrod Grifka will
organize and assign)

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TFS parking lot and dismissed

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