REAP (ReEntry Acceleration Program) Immersion Syllabus Overview

Fall 2019
Wednesday 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR
Sandra Navalli ’03 (2M-9 Uris Hall; sn2010@gsb.columbia.edu), Managing Director of the Tamer Center for Social Enterprise.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

REAP (ReEntry Acceleration Program) Immersion is a 3 credit course. B8584 REAP: Reforming Mass Incarceration and the Role of Business (taught by Prof. Damon Phillips), a 2.5 day elective August block course, is a pre-requisite to this course. Only students who apply prior to course bidding and have been accepted can enroll in B8580 REAP Immersion. Selected students will be required to be approved by the facility and Department of Corrections and attend a mandatory volunteers training provided by the facility.

In REAP Immersion the core organizing activity will be teaching business skills to currently incarcerated people. Fall MBA instructor teams will teach the Financial Empowerment course, or the Achieving Success in Personal Finance course. Spring instructor teams will teach the Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship, and Getting to Yes courses.

This initiative to teach in a prison has been jointly developed by Resilience Education, Hour Children, Osborne Association, and the Tamer Center for Social Enterprise at Columbia Business School, with support of the Center for Justice at Columbia University.

TEACHING METHOD

MBA instructors use case studies to engage and to facilitate student dialog on business concepts that are built around a narrative of someone facing a business, educational or personal decision. Students are frequently asked to take the perspective of the case study’s protagonist, and discuss, "How would you solve this problem?".

SAMPLE FALL TOPICS TAUGHT

Financial literacy is key to financial wellbeing. Cases and readings cover key financial terms, concepts and tools to make sound financial decisions. The curriculum is designed to provide an understanding of financial concepts such as saving, investing, budgeting, financial planning, credit, and risk. Specific topics include:

- Assessing banking, credit and debit card options;
- Challenges of building up credit and understanding FICO scores;
- Personal budgeting
- Cell phones and plans;
- Leasing versus owning a home;
- Deciding on insurance (life, health);
- Savings and retirement planning; and
- Planning for educational expenses.

Students at the facilities also develop and present a personal financial plan.