

B8580: REAP (Reentry Acceleration Program) Immersion Syllabus Overview

Fall 2023
Wednesday 10:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR

Sandra Navalli '03 (Geffen Hall, Room 676; sn2010@gsb.columbia.edu)
Adjunct faculty and 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*.

In *REAP Immersion* the core organizing activity will be teaching business skills to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. Fall MBA instructor teams will teach *Financial Empowerment*. Spring instructor teams will teach *Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship*, or *Getting to Yes* courses.

This initiative to teach incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people 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. We also provide career advising for formerly incarcerated students who have taken or have applied for **Justice Through Code**, a computer skills, coding and interpersonal skills building set of courses which is a joint initiative of the Tamer Center and the Center for Justice. MBA/EMBA students will be engaged in course teaching, mentoring/advising, and other curricular development projects.

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 learning these concepts also develop and present a personal financial plan.