

## **PBJ 301: THEORY AND PRACTICE PAPER**

**Due May 1, 2007 in class**

This assignment requires you to integrate your classroom experience, your field projects, and your plans for your practicum into a cohesive paper which is similar to the more lengthy theory and practice paper which is required for PBJ 397.

Choose two theories which are important for one or both of your field project agencies or for your field practicum site. You may use two theories relevant to one agency or two different theories, each of which is relevant to one of your agencies, or two theories which are relevant to both of your agencies.

Remember that a theory is not a rule or law. A theory explains behavior, in this case the behavior of people within your agency or the behavior of the agency itself. Which theories EXPLAIN the behavior in your agency? While thinking and writing, consider the stated goals of your agency. Do the agency organization and patterns of operation follow accepted theory about the ways to reach these goals or does agency behavior contradict accepted professional philosophy? Do the actual agency activities lead to meeting stated objectives or do they thwart the very goals which the agency is trying to meet?

1. Introduce your paper by **briefly** describing the purpose, jurisdiction, and funding sources for the agency or agencies you will be utilizing.
2. Name a theory which relates to the goals, operations, structure or practices within your agency. Describe your theory, drawing from **at least two** scholarly sources which help to demonstrate the way in which your theory **explains** behavior in your chosen agency or agencies. (You must have a total of at least four different **scholarly** sources for your two theories.) You may use your texts in addition to your four scholarly sources if you choose to do so.
3. Explain the way in which your observations confirm or conflict with your reading. Draw on any appropriate experiences with clients, staff, or administration.
4. Repeat sections two and three for your second theory.
5. Conclude by indicating the way in which consideration of these two theories has increased your sensitivity to and awareness of specific issues or conflicts which you expect to observe in your practicum.

This paper should be four double spaced typed pages, plus a bibliography and cover page. Remember to cite the source of your scholarly information in both the body of your paper and in your bibliography. Use an appropriate and consistent citation style for both your **citations and your bibliography**. *A.P.A.*, *M.L.A.*, or the *Chicago Manual* are all commonly accepted style manuals. If you have any questions about proper citations or any other aspect of this assignment, please ask me or a teaching assistant.

All work and analysis must be your own. **Any ideas or quotes from your resources must be properly cited and include specific page numbers, whether your citation style requires page numbers or not.** Using material without proper citation is plagiarism or theft of intellectual material and may result in an AF@ for the assignment.

Use scholarly journal articles for your sources. While you may use textbooks, be certain to use some journal material. Possible resources which you might use to find appropriate articles are the *Social Science Index*, *Criminal Justice Periodical Index*, or *Psychology Abstracts*. The librarians in Penfield may suggest other resources. Popular magazines, newspapers, or journals such as *Police Chief*, **will not** count among the **four** scholarly resources, though you may draw on these sources for additional data.

Your paper will be evaluated on content, responsiveness to the assignment, quality of research and reasoning, organization, and mechanics, including grammar and spelling.

A Public Justice Department guide to writing research papers is available online at [http://www.oswego.edu/academics/colleges\\_and\\_departments/departments/public\\_justice/resources/Paper\\_Requirements.pdf](http://www.oswego.edu/academics/colleges_and_departments/departments/public_justice/resources/Paper_Requirements.pdf). Every student should make a copy for his or her own use. A writing rubric which is used in grading is also available on the Public Justice Department website under the link *Resources for Current Students*.