

Public Interest Seminar Syllabus

Prof. Mary Bird and Maureen Kieffer

Spring 2012

Text: We will be reading Alex Kotlowitz's book "There Are No Children Here" and discussing how the issues addressed in the book relating to poverty and race have changed since the book was written over twenty years ago. We will have members of the Chicago legal community (and possibly other communities) come speak on some of the relevant areas: housing, education, and child welfare reform. The text is available on Amazon, at Barnes and Noble (but call ahead), as well as available for a Kindle or Nook (prices range from about \$11- 12; there are also used versions out there).

Project: Each student will complete an independent project as part of the course. The project should further the student's knowledge of a public interest issue and serve the community. Examples of projects include: creating a fellowship proposal, assisting a community organization with a project such as creating informational pamphlets for clients, conducting legal research, doing community outreach, etc, writing a research paper on a topic of interest to the student. The student will meet with the course instructors to discuss the project twice during the semester. The student will also present the project to the class at the final class.

Class Meetings:

1) Monday, January 23, 2012, 1-3 p.m., Room 1202

Introduction and discussion of class requirements (Please note that the length of this first class depends in part on the discussion scheduled for the next day. We will be in touch with members of the class about both the Jan. 23rd and Jan 24th sessions.)

2) Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 2-, Room TBA //Speaker: Alex Kotlowitz

(Please note that we are still working on these details. Mr. Kotlowitz is unable to come to Loyola during one of our seminar classes. Please come to this sessions with questions about the book and relevant issues. Prior to Jan. 23rd, please email no less than 5 questions to Mary Bird at mbird1@luc.edu)

3) Monday, February 13, 2012, 1-3 p.m., Room 1202

Child Welfare Reform/Education Speakers

*Meetings with Course Instructors: Monday, February 20 and Monday, February 27
Please sign up for a time on TWEN*

4) Monday, March 19, 2012, 1-3 p.m., Room 1202

Housing Reform Speakers

*Meetings with Course Instructors: Monday, March 26 and Monday, April 2
Please sign up for a time on TWEN*

5) Monday, April 16, 2012, 1-3 p.m., Room 1202

Class Presentations