*Criminal Justice 2: Home School Edition*

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

In order to make the most of this time and to make sure you all continue to learn about the Criminal Justice system, you are being offered the opportunity to read this book. My original plan was to read this as a part of class, though since we are losing a significant amount of time in class, I have to eliminate it from the class content. Thus, it will not be included in our class discussions when we return. That is why it is my hope that you all choose to participate in the reading, discussions and activities – so you don’t miss out on the opportunity to learn a bit about the legacy of capital punishment in the United States.

One issue I do want to be clear on is your participation in both reading the book as well as the assignments I will give are completely voluntary. Choosing not to participate in this and other offerings during the school closure will not hurt your grade. You will not receive any grades on this work in Skyward, though I am waiting to hear if I am able to offer extra credit points. I will follow up with this when I find out the answer.

The plan for the next few weeks is as follows:

1. Read sections of the book as assigned.
2. Write answers to questions on a Microsoft Word or Google Doc. Keep this as a working document throughout the reading of the book and then submit all answers when we have finished the book. Questions will be uploaded to the class website every few days.
3. Complete the assignments associated with different chapters and submit them once each one is completed. These assignments will supplement and enhance the topics introduced or referred to in the book.
4. Discussion questions will be posted on the Padlet that is on the class website. I will be selecting a few discussion questions for each chapter we read. You will be expected to provide a thoughtful response to each question posted AND respond to at least one other person’s response. Please do this by saying who you are responding to with their name and a colon , example (Jack: I agree with you in that…).

**Padlet Rules: you MUST use your name as we know you in class and there is no tolerance for any inappropriate language or disrespectful behaviors. Think of how you would act and respond in class and follow those guidelines as you respond to questions and others responses. You guys do great with this, so I’m sure it wont be an issue.**

The idea is to foster some discussion and interaction since we are all isolated at home and are missing out on time together in class. Discuss the book freely and I encourage you to do more than just the minimum of responding to one other person’s response. Have fun with this and take advantage of the opportunity. This structure is very similar to those used for online college courses, so if that might be in your future, this will be good preparation!

As always, please feel free to email me with questions. Also, please make sure to submit your work to my gmail account: vontrappcte@gmail.com.