**B8580: REAP (Reentry Acceleration Program) Immersion**  
**Syllabus Overview**  

**Fall 2018**  
**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 1.5 credit course that runs for the full semester. *B8584 REAP: Reforming Mass Incarceration and the Role of Business (taught by Prof. Damon Phillips)*, a 2.5 day elective course taught in September, is a pre/co-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, and *Achieving Success in Personal Finance* workshop series. 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, 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. Fall course and workshop 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 also develop and present a personal financial plan.