

JUVENILE LAW

Fall 2007

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Course Description

This course explores the laws affecting children and childhood. The course provides students with an understanding of the legal rights, responsibility and status of children, particularly balanced among the interests of parents and/or guardians and the state. In this connection, the course will focus on the laws relating to abuse and neglect, and the juvenile justice system. Throughout the course, students will solve problems designed to help them develop the analytical skills needed to practice in this and other areas of the law.

General Information

The required text is Abrams and Ramsey, CHILDREN AND THE LAW: DOCTRINE, POLICY AND PRACTICE (Third Edition) (West 2007). Additional materials may be posted on the course's website, which is available through TWEN. To access the site, go to www.lawschool.westlaw.com and click the link to TWEN.

Although I do not have regular office hours, I am available to discuss any questions you may have about the course. Please feel free to e-mail me to make an appointment.

Course Requirements and Grading

Most of your grade will be based on a three-hour exam. Additionally, class participation and attendance are essential. I will calculate final grades for the course as follows:

Exam: 65% of your grade
Class attendance and participation: 35%

If you must miss class, please inform me before class if possible by e-mail. Chronic absences and/or unpreparedness will result in a failing grade.

Reading Assignments

Please read the following for the first week of class. I will post the next set of readings on our TWEN site.

Date	Reading Assignment	Problems
I. The Status, Rights and Obligations of Children		
1. August 21	Childhood in America and Evolving Conception of Children's Status : 1-32	For class discussion: Problem 1-2
2. August 22	Evolving Conception of Children's Status, continued: 32 - 49	For class discussion: 1-3