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AJ 206, W 17.30-20.15, MH 526, Spring 2002
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SEMINAR IN JUVENILE JUSTICE
AJ 206, Spring, 2002

History and theory of juvenile justice. Juvenile court structure and processes for juvenile delinquency, status offenses and dependency (child abuse and neglect) cases. Under delinquency we discuss the various court hearings, constitutional issues, transfers to adult court, and correctional issues (including the death penalty for juveniles). Under status offenders we discuss problems with legal definitions and dispositions. Under dependency, we discuss types of cases and roles of professions, child victims in court and expert syndrome testimony, and emerging issues. The role of minors in other court settings, such as family, criminal, and civil courts are included, along with important Supreme Court cases. Emphasis is on current legal and social policy issues related to juvenile justice.

Course Objectives

1) Enable the student to understand the history, philosophy and theories of juvenile justice
2) Enable the student to understand the structure, the processes, and the tasks of Juvenile Court and its relationship to other courts, Juvenile Probation, Department of Social Services, schools and juvenile facilities
3) Enable the student to know the law in California related to juvenile delinquency, status offenders and abused and neglected children
4) Enable the student to discuss and understand current trends and controversies in the law and social policy related to juvenile justice.

Readings

Required books:

Recommended book:

Additional readings are indicated in the course schedule.
Course Requirements

1) **Class Participation**
   Students are expected to attend class and participate actively and constructively in class discussions. Assigned materials should be read prior to each class meeting. Discussion should indicated knowledge of the subject matter, familiarity with the readings and ability to ask and answer probing questions. Students are encouraged to keep informed about current issues, and bring such issues to the class discussion. Grading on class participation will depend on how well the student participates in class discussions. Obviously, attendance is necessary to receive credit for participation. Attendance and participation will be recorded for each class meeting. Students should call in or send an email with an explanation if they are unable to attend a class meeting, preferably prior to the class meeting.

2) **Class presentations**
   Each student must make an oral presentation, lead a class discussion, and turn in a written report on one of the assigned class topics. Students may select a sub-area within an assigned topic and must base the report on five outside professional sources (from 1990 or more recent). The report is not intended to be a rehash of the regularly assigned materials, but rather an interesting augmentation of outside materials. You may included news-articles as references in addition to the five professional sources. The brief written report must be typed (12 font), double-spaced, and turned in on the day of the presentation (4 pages average; min.3, max. 5, excluding references.). The report will be downgraded ½ grade for each late day.
   In addition, each student must make a brief oral presentation of the term paper project towards the end of the semester. The term paper and the oral presentation must be on different topics.

3) **Term Paper**
   Each student must prepare a term paper on a self-selected, but approved topic within the subject areas of the course. The paper must include a review of the relevant literature, summarize and analyze the state of knowledge in the area, and suggest problems, dilemmas, future trends, research and policy needs. Papers will be graded on their clarity, coherence and creativity. A simple literature review is not adequate. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, with an average of 15 pages, maximum 20 pages, minimum 12 pages.
   The paper must be written specifically for this class, and based on materials/issues discussed in AJ 206. All paper topics must be approved by the instructor, and students must provide an outline and references by April 10. The paper must contain at least 10 references (of these 8 must be from professional sources, and from 1990 or more recent). The paper is due on May 15, and will be downgraded ½ grade for each late date. Papers must conform to the APA standards, 5th or 4th edition.
   The following standards apply to the term paper:
   - Typewritten and double-spaced
   - Correct punctuation, spelling and mechanics
   - Properly footnoted or end-noted
- Appendices where appropriate
- American Psychological Association (APA) reference format, 5th or 4th ed.

**Grade Evaluation**

The course grade will be assigned according to the following weight distribution:

Class Participation: 1/3
Class Presentations/Written Short Report: 1/3
Term Paper: 1/3

**AJ 206, Spring, 2002**

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Jan. 23  
Overview of course outline. Explanation of course mechanics.

I. **Introduction to Juvenile Justice**
   A. **History of the Juvenile Justice System**

   Jan. 30  
   B. **The Current Juvenile Justice System: Cases and Structure**
      Feld: Part 2: Gateway to the Juvenile Justice Process
      West: W & I code, sect. 200-202; 300 (overview), 601, 602.
      Sagatun & Edwards, ch. 5, p. 67-71;

Feb. 6  
II. **Delinquency Cases**
   A. **Overview of court structure, court hearings and case processing**
      Snyder (1996). The juvenile court and delinquency cases. *The future of children*, 6(3); W & I code, sects. 625-630.1, 202, 207.1,
      Feld: Part 3: Procedural Justice in Juvenile Court: A. Pretrial Detention, article by Snyder & Sickmund

   **Student Presentations**

Feb. 13  
B. **Constitutional issues: History and current procedural problems**

   **Student Presentations**

Feb. 20  
C. **Transfers (Waivers) to Adult Court: Debate and Solutions**
West: W & I Code, sects. 707, 707.01, 707.1.
Proposition 21 materials (handouts);
Feld: Part 4: Transfers of serious young offenders to criminal court:
Introduction, Articles by Snyder & Sickmund, Rasmussen & Feld, Singer, Bishop, Frazier & Henretta.

**Student Presentations**

Feb 27  D. Correctional Issues
Greenwood, P. (1966). Responding to juvenile crime: lessons Learned. The Future of Children: The Juvenile Court, 6(3);

March 6  Field trip to Juvenile Hall

March 13  E. The Death Penalty for Juveniles?
United Nations Convention on Children; materials from NCJFCJ

**Student Presentations**

March 20  III. Status Offender Cases
A. Legal definitions and current issues
West: W & I code, sect. 601-601.4
Materials on curfews, run-aways, truants (parents’ liability)

**Student Presentations**

March 27  Spring Break

April 3  IV. Abused and Neglected Cases
A. Types of cases, roles of professionals
West :: W & I codes, sect. 300, CRCC 1439-1469;
Sagatun & Edwards, Ch. 2,3,4.

**Student Presentations**

April 10  B. Legal response: Dependency cases in juvenile court,
domestic relations (family) court, criminal court, civil court
Sagatun & Edwards: Ch: 5,6,7,8,9
Barth, R. (1996). The juvenile court and dependency cases. _The
future of children, 6(3); Hardin, M. (1996). Responsibilities and effectiveness of the juvenile court in handling dependency cases. 
The future of children, 6(3); 1997;

Student Presentations
Paper Outlines with APA References are due

April 17
Child Victims in Court
Sagatun & Edwards: ch. 10, 11, 12, 13
A digest of cases: Coy v. Iowa, Maryland v. Craig

April 24
Emerging issues and comparative systems
Sagatun & Edwards: ch. 14, 15

May 1
Library Assignment/ Work on Term Paper

May 8
V. Future of the Juvenile Court
Feld: Part 3, C. Article by Ainsworth

Student Presentation

May 15
Student Presentations of Term Papers

PAPERS ARE DUE