

Dr. Inger J. Sagatun-Edwards, Chair, AJ Department
AJ 210 : T 17.30-20.15, MH 510, Spring 2003
Office: MH 509, Phone: 408- 924-2945; FAX 408-924-2953; isagatun@email.sjsu.edu
Office hrs.: T 1.00-5.30; W 1.00- 5.30;

**SEMINAR IN SPECIAL TOPICS
AJ 210, Spring 2003**

Course Description: Overview of history and development of domestic violence and the law. Discussion of definitions, scope, and causal theories of domestic violence. Review of the development of state and federal laws (VAWA). Effects of children witnessing domestic violence and laws related to abduction and custody Cross cultural and immigration issues, gay and lesbian battering and elder abuse. Reporting issues, law enforcement responses focusing on arrest policies, prosecutorial responses, judges and courts, specialized domestic violence courts, alternative dispute resolution, civil restraining orders, tort actions. Victims as defendants and the use of the “battered woman syndrome” in self defense. Domestic violence in the workplace.

Course Objectives

The objectives of the course are to:

- 1) Enable students to understand the history and development of the law related to domestic violence
- 2) Educate students about current legal responses and debate, and the social science research in the field
- 3) Encourage students to think critically about the legal system responses and future policy issues

Required Readings:

Books:

Buzawa, E., & Buzawa, C. (2003). *Domestic violence: The criminal justice response*. (3rd ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Lemon, N. (2001). *Domestic violence law*. St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Company.

Articles:

A few additional articles, chapters, and excerpts from relevant California law on are required. These are available in a course reader from *Maple Press*.

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 indicate 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 for getting credit for

Overall Class Participation:	1/3
Class Presentation, Leading Class Discussion, and Written Report:	1/3
Term Paper:	1/3

Grading will conform to university regulations. Two thirds of the course must be completed and permission from the instructor must be obtained in advance to get an Incomplete (“I”). A “U” will be given for unauthorized withdrawal; this will count as an F in the GPA. A “U” is given when a student stops attending the class, without filing the necessary drop papers. An automatic “F” is given for plagiarism or cheating.

AJ 210, Fall, 2003
COURSE SCHEDULE

- Jan 28 **Part I. Introduction**
 Overview of course and explanation of course mechanics.
 History and Overview of Legal Reactions
 Buzawa, ch. 1; Lemon, ch. 1
- Feb. 4 **Part II: Definitions, Scope and Explanations**
 Library Assignment: Buzawa, chs. 2,3,4; Lemon, ch. 2, 9.
 Select topic for class presentation. No class meeting
- Feb. 11 **Part III: Special Groups and Domestic Violence**
A. Children Witnessing Domestic Violence and Laws Related to Custody Issues and Abduction
 Lemon, ch. 7; Matthews, M. (1999). The impact of federal and state laws on children exposed to domestic violence. *The Future of Children*, 9 (3), 50-66;
 Johnston, J. & Sagatun-Edwards, I. (2002). Parental kidnapping, legal history, profiles of risk, and preventive interventions. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics*, 11, 805-822.
Student presentations
- Feb. 18 **B. Cross-cultural Issues, Immigration and Domestic Violence**
 Lemon, chs. 3, ch. 17.
Student presentations
- Feb. 25 **C. Gay and Lesbian Battering, Elder Abuse**
 Lemon, chs. 4; Brownell, P. (2002). Elder abuse and gerontological social Work. In A.Roberts (ed). Handbook of domestic violence intervention Strategies. New York: Oxford University Press
Student presentations
- March 4 **Part III. The Legal Response**
A. The Development of State and Federal Laws (VAWA)
 Buzawa, ch. 7; Lemon, ch. 14
Student presentations