SYLLABUS

This course considers issues related to juvenile delinquency and status offenses in juvenile court and juveniles tried as adults. Issues of abuse, neglect, and the rights of juveniles in civil matters are addressed in the separate Juvenile Law course. For fall 2010, we will continue a focus on juvenile justice reform and the current effort to rewrite the Georgia juvenile code. After exploring the history and implementation of juvenile courts in the United States, we will critique contemporary juvenile justice approaches with a special emphasis on the delinquency/status offense provisions of the Proposed Model Code and Georgia SB 292. Student research papers will address issues of twenty-first century juvenile justice reform and will link to Georgia reform efforts. There is no textbook for the course. All materials can be accessed online, and each student is responsible for bringing a hard copy of the assigned materials to class each week. You can expect to print over 500 pages for class assignments.

Materials: Assigned materials can be accessed online. You are required to bring a copy of assigned materials to class.

Writing Text: Students are strongly encouraged to consult a writing text such as Fajans, Scholarly Writing for Law Students, which is on reserve in the law library.

Requirements: Regular attendance is required. Students with more than three absences will receive a failing grade in the course. Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late are required to report themselves as absent. Preparation and participation are expected. A student who is unprepared will be considered absent. Some classes may require observation at Atlanta area juvenile courts. Class participation consists of weekly participation and a presentation on the research paper. Class participation will count as 25% of the final grade. A major research paper or a series of shorter research papers is required, as discussed below. A student may satisfy the writing requirement if the grade on the research paper (not the final grade) is C+ or better. A student who chooses the series of shorter papers will not be able to satisfy the writing requirement.

Grading: A major analytical research paper on an approved topic related to juvenile justice is required. The paper will count as 75% of the final grade. The minimum page length is 25 pages, double-spaced, excluding endnotes or footnotes. Endnotes or footnotes should conform to the Bluebook or
ALWD rules for law review articles. The paper topic and outline must be approved by the instructor. A typed draft must be submitted. An acceptable paper will demonstrate good research, writing and organizational skills and must include significant original analysis. The final paper must include a table of contents and a bibliography.

**Alternative:** A student may choose to do two shorter research projects as an alternative to one in-depth paper. The projects are likely to require a written report of at least 10 pages, each. Possible projects might involve interviewing court personnel, reviewing court records, or researching legal issues and preparing a report or memorandum. Projects must be approved by the instructor.

An outline must be submitted on September 28, 2010, and a proofread draft (not a "rough" draft) must be submitted on October 26, 2010. The final paper is due on December 15, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Other times as available or by appointment.

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Assignments

Class 1 – 8/17  History and Philosophy of the Juvenile Justice System – The First 70 Years and Why They Matter


Class 2 – 8/24
Constitutional Foundations of Contemporary Juvenile Justice:
Kent v. United States, 383 U.S.541(1966)
In re Gault, 387 U.S. 1 (1967)
In re Winship, 397 U.S. 358 (1970)
McKeiver v. Pennsylvania, 403 U.S. 528(1971)
Fare v. Michael C.,442 U.S. 707(1979)

Class 3 – 8/31
Overview of Georgia Law, Procedure and Practice:
O.C.G.A. 15-11-1 et seq.
Common Wisdom, Statewide Summary:
http://www.gaappleseed.org/children/reports/
Proposed Reform
www.justga.org

Class 4 – 9/7  Court Observation:  Status Offense/Delinquency Adjudication

Class 5 – 9/14  Trying Juveniles as Adults
Roper v. Simmons
Graham v. Florida
Additional Reading TBA

Class 6 – 9/21  Race and Gender
TBA

Class 7 – 9/28  Outlines Due – No Class

Class 8 – 10/5  Court Observation: Disposition/Post-Disposition

Class 9 – 10/12  Perspectives on Reform and Professionalism

Classes 10-14  Class Presentations

Drafts due at the beginning of class on 10/26.

Final papers due by 5 p.m. on 12/16.

NOTE: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.