

Syllabus  
Children and the Law  
Fall 2012

Fall 2012  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 AM – Noon  
TUII- 215  
Professor Ellen Marrus  
Office - TUII 230  
713.743.0894  
[Emarrus@uh.edu](mailto:Emarrus@uh.edu)  
Office hours:                      By appointment

**Book:**

Douglas E. Abrams and Sarah H. Ramsey, CHILDREN AND THE LAW: DOCTRINE, POLICY, AND PRACTICE, West Publishing, Fourth Edition.

**Objectives:**

1. Students will learn how children's lives are influenced and shaped by the legal system.
2. Students will consider practical and ethical issues that arise in the practice of representing children.
3. Students will be able to integrate their knowledge of children and the law into the practice of law in this area and the development of policies that affect children.

**Assignments:**

All assignments are subject to change. Any changes will be distributed as quickly as possible. Page assignments on the syllabus are from the casebook. **Be sure to read all notes and problems in the assigned readings.**

**Class Attendance:**

All students are expected to be on time. Persistent problems with attendance and/or tardiness can result in a grade deduction OR being dropped from the class rolls. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late to class you will be counted absent for that day. Students are not allowed to miss more than five (5) class sessions.

Several classes are cancelled during the semester and are noted on the syllabus. September 18<sup>th</sup>, October 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup> are cancelled for Jewish holidays. October 25<sup>th</sup> is cancelled for a speaking engagement and conference I have to attend. Two of the classes are being made up by adding 5-10 minutes to each class period. Instead of ending class at 11:45 we will end at 11:50 or 11:55. The other two classes will be made up by your observation at juvenile court.

## **Grading:**

Your grade in this course will be based on the following:

**30 Points** – Class participation. This does not mean just attending class and contributing once in awhile. To receive all 30 points you must make meaningful contributions to the majority of classes.

**30 Points** - One short paper, no more than ten (10) pages, based on a visit to the juvenile courts and the observation of abuse and neglect hearings. More information about this assignment and the due date will be distributed the second week of classes.

**70 Points** – A long paper, no more than 30 pages, that covers an existing policy or the need for a policy that affects children in one of the legal areas that we will be discussing during the semester. The paper will include suggested changes or policies that can improve the lives of children. More information about the paper and due date will be distributed the second week of classes.

**70 Points** - An exam question that will be distributed and completed at the scheduled exam time.

### **August 28<sup>th</sup>**

Read pages 1 – top of 35.

### **August 30<sup>th</sup>**

Read pages 36 – 65.

### **September 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

Read pages 65 – 92.

### **September 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**

Read pages 103 - 127

### **September 18<sup>th</sup> – no class, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

Read pages 128 – 161.

### **September 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**

Pages 161 – 181, 204 – 222, and 238 – 271.

### **October 2<sup>nd</sup> – no class, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

Pages 271 – 283, and 222 – 238.

**October 9<sup>th</sup> – no class, October 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Pages 284 - 328.

**October 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Pages 328 – 373.

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> (assignment below), October 25<sup>th</sup> – no class**  
Pages 373 - 413

**October 30<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Pages 413 – 449.

**November 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Pages 449 – 519.

**November 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Pages 520 – 605.

**November 20<sup>th</sup> (reading below), November 22<sup>nd</sup> – No class - Thanksgiving**  
Pages 887 – 934

**November 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Pages 934 – 968.

**December 4<sup>th</sup> – No class. School emergency make-up day.**

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Catch up, review

**December 13<sup>th</sup> – Final Exam 9 AM – noon.**