JUVENILE JUSTICE
LAW 6930, SECTION 13AA

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OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

CLASS MEETINGS
Holland Hall 360
Mondays, 5:00 – 6:50pm

TEXTS

There Are No Children Here: The story of two boys growing up in the Other America
Alex Kotlowitz
Anchor; Reissue edition (January 5, 1992)

No Matter How Loud I Shout: A Year in the Life of Juvenile Court
Edward Humes
Simon & Schuster (May 7, 1997)

Trout: A True Story of Murden, Teens, and the Death Penalty
Jeff Kunerth
University Press of Florida (April 15, 2012)

There is no casebook assigned for this class; all other assigned readings will be posted
to the “Juvenile Justice Law – Spring 2013” TWEN site.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will expose students to the legal, ethical, and social issues surrounding juvenile law and practice. The course will focus on dependency law, child abuse, child neglect, youth behavior in school settings, juvenile delinquency and criminal prosecutions involving children. Through in-depth analysis of relevant case law, articles, statutes, guest speakers and student reports, the course will allow students to explore trends in juvenile law and contemplate how lawyers in various arenas can best effectuate positive change in the lives of children.
**ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS**

All written assignments must be submitted via TWEN and will be graded blindly. *Do not put your name on your assignments.* Failure to follow this instruction will result in a 1-point deduction on your grade for the assignment.

Assignments must be submitted via TWEN no later than the time and date specified, with your UFID only on the front page. Electronic assignments must be submitted as an attachment in one of the following formats:

- Microsoft Word
- PDF

You must use the following file naming requirements for your TWEN submissions. Failure to substantially adhere to the required naming convention will result in a 1-point deduction on your grade for the assignment.

“Assignment”.”YourUFID”

- EX: Reaction1.1234-5678
- EX: FieldStudy.1234-5678

Do not use spaces or special characters in naming your files for electronic submission, as it may cause the file to be misread by some computing systems.

*Unexcused late assignments will result in the grade for the assignment being lowered by at least 2 points – the later the assignment, the greater the point deduction.* This policy will be strictly applied; all deadlines for written assignments are included in the syllabus and posted on TWEN, and you will have plenty of time to complete and submit your assignments. You should always build in time for your submissions to upload to TWEN, and you should check to ensure the upload has been successful. *No excuses for late assignments will be entertained after the deadline has passed.*

Late assignments may only be excused if you receive permission prior to the assignment deadline.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance will be taken during each class period. Unexcused absences will not be permitted. Absences may only be excused if you receive permission prior to the class you cannot attend.

The University of Florida’s policy on observance of religious holidays excuses students’ absence from a class or academic activity *upon prior notification to the instructor.* Accommodations will be made for students who must miss a class period due to a religious observance.
COMPUTER POLICY

Because this class is driven by active participation and discussion, computers and handhelds may not be used in class unless specifically authorized.

GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Information on current UF grading policies can be found on the University Registrar’s website and in the UF Law Student Handbook:

https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx
http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies#9

Your grades will be assigned as followed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Reaction Papers</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Field Study” Paper</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100</td>
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Assignments will be graded on a point system, with each assignment’s maximum point value correlating to its percentage of your final grade (ie, the final exam will be worth a maximum of 40 points; your papers will be worth a maximum of 10 points). You will receive a “point” grade for each assignment, but due to the mandatory curve system, letter grades will not be given until your final grade for the semester.

Final Exam

Your final exam for this course will be an open-book, open-note, out-of-class analytical paper. The exam will be released no later than 5:00pm on Friday, April 26, and due via TWEN on Monday, April 29, 2013, at 10:30am.

Your final exam is worth 40% of your final grade.

Reading Reaction Papers

Throughout the semester, we will be reading three books that follow the experiences of youth in America who are impacted by our juvenile justice systems. You will be required to submit a “reaction” essay for each assigned book.
The reaction papers should focus on responding specifically to the books, but you should reference other readings and class discussions to support, contradict, or juxtapose your themes. You should not simply restate the arguments or theories from the books, or merely summarize the readings. Instead, a superior paper will approach the subjects analytically – raising questions, sharing reactions, and assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the positions articulated in the materials.

Each reaction paper is due the day prior to the class in which we will discuss the assigned book, and will have a word limit of 1,500 words. Each reaction paper is worth 10% of your final grade, for a total of 30%.

**Group Presentation**

The class will be divided into small groups of no more than 6 students. Each group will attend one out-of-class “field study” visit to meet with stakeholders in Florida’s juvenile justice system. Following each “field study,” the group members will work together to prepare and lead a presentation that introduces your classmates to the practical application of “juvenile justice” as you experienced it.

Groups will be assigned after Drop/Add has ended. Presentation dates are noted in the Class Schedule section of this syllabus. Group presentations are worth 10% of your final grade.

**“Field Study” Paper**

Following your group’s “field study,” each member will submit a paper discussing what you experienced, and how the piece of the system you observed may affect the larger pattern of juvenile justice – both positively and negatively. Do not summarize your observations; rather, you should consider what you experienced and draw on assigned readings and class discussions to analyze how it fits into our system, how it affects youth in the system, whether it effectively meets its stated goals, and how/whether it can/should be improved upon.

“Field study” papers are due the day prior to your group’s class presentation, and will have a word limit of 2,000 words. “Field study” papers are worth 10% of your final grade.

**Participation**

Class participation plays a vital role in your understanding of the materials and of the impact of juvenile justice systems on our society. Assigned readings should be completed before the class meeting, as indicated by the Class Schedule in this syllabus. Failure to read and prepare for class will impact both your understanding of the discussions and your academic performance in the class. Your participation should be both active and meaningful – analyzing the course materials, positing thoughtful questions, and contributing to a classroom culture of learning.
In lieu of a class meeting the week of January 21 (MLK Day), you will outline a case for in-class discussion on January 28. Your outline is due via TWEN on January 25, and will count towards your participation grade.

Your participation in class discussions and activities will comprise 10% of your final grade for this class. Additionally, outstanding participation may boost a borderline final grade by one-half letter (ie – A- to A; B to B+).

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

TECHNICAL & COMPUTING ISSUES

You will be required to access the Westlaw TWEN website to obtain materials for this class. If you have any problems with the site, or any other computing issues, please contact your Westlaw Rep and/or Technology Services:

http://www.law.ufl.edu/about/services/technology-services
TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE
Please note: All assignments are subject to change as the semester develops.

Reading assignments for each week are posted on TWEN, with links to the cases and articles. Additional reading assignments may be posted on TWEN throughout the semester. It will be your responsibility to check TWEN for additional reading assignments, which will be posted online no later than Fridays at 9pm.

Week 1: Monday, January 7
Class Expectations

A Brief History of Juvenile Justice in America

January 10 – Drop/Add ends

Week 2: Monday, January 14
History Continued: The Olden Days

Group “Field Study” Preferences

Week 3: Classes Cancelled on Monday, January 21

Constructive Monday: Friday, January 18
NO CLASS – Case Outline due by 5pm

Week 4: Monday, January 28
History Continued: Civil Rights & “The Super-Predator”

Week 5: February 4
Who are these kids, anyway?
Youth of Color; Girls; Poverty; LGBT; Crossover Kids

Class Discussion: There Are No Children Here

Week 6: February 11
The Criminalization of Childhood: Status Offenses

Week 7: February 18
The Criminalization of Childhood: School Offenses

Group Presentation: School Resource Officers

Week 8: February 25
The Criminalization of Childhood: Sex Offenses

Group Presentation: The Role of the Defender

Week 9: SPRING BREAK
Week 10: March 11
  Crime & Punishment: An Overview of Delinquency Court

  Class Discussion: No Matter How Loud I Shout

Week 11: March 18
  Crime & Punishment: Police Interrogations

  Group Presentation: Detention Center

Week 12: March 25
  Crime & Punishment: Juvenile Arrest & Detention

  Group Presentation: Courtroom Observation

Week 13: April 1
  Crime & Punishment: Diversion & Disposition

  Group Presentation: Teen Court

Week 14: April 8
  Crime & Punishment: Direct File

  Group Presentation: The Role of the Prosecutor

Week 15: April 15
  Crime & Punishment: Juveniles Sentenced as Adults

  Class Discussion: Trout

FINAL EXAM DUE: April 29, 10:30am