

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 460
COURSE: JUVENILE JUSTICE
INSTRUCTOR: MICHAEL W. McPHAIL
FALL 2009 SYLLABUS AND REQUIREMENTS
THURSDAY NIGHTS 6:00 - 8:45 P.M.**

THIS OUTLINE AND COURSE DESCRIPTION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL PLANS, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**AJ460 JUVENILE JUSTICE (3 HOURS) (FROM THE UNIVERSITY BULLETIN) -
A STUDY OF THE LAW CONCERNING INVESTIGATION OF JUVENILE
OFFENDERS, DISPOSITION OF OFFENDERS, AND JUVENILE COURTS**

COURSE GOALS: AJ 460 is a Capstone Course. This course will provide the student with an in-depth examination of issues within the area of juvenile justice and juvenile law, including, but not limited to, history, procedure, theory, and juvenile accountability with the juvenile justice system.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND READING MATERIALS:

- * Miller, Dawson, Dix and Parnas. *The Juvenile Justice Process - Cases and Materials*, Fourth Edition
- * Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Reno, Nevada (July 2005).

A printed copy can be secured for \$20 from staff@ncjfcj.org or by calling (775) 784-6012. The document can be downloaded over the internet at www.ncjfcj.org/content/blogcategory/346/411/
- * Instructional Supplements and Other Resources

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: You will have numerous grading opportunities. Each grading opportunity is equal in value. A student is required to satisfactorily fulfill the following performance objectives in each category:

- * **Class Participation and General Objectives:**

- * Students will have and demonstrate suitable reading, writing and oral communication skills.
 - * Students will demonstrate the ability to use standard English grammar, punctuation, spelling and usage.
 - * Students will demonstrate the ability to connect course content to other disciplines and/or to real world situations.
- * **Examinations:** Two (2) examinations will be given.
 - * **Case Briefs:** Students are required to read and submit written briefs on at least four (4) landmark decisions rendered by the United States Supreme Court wherein issues related to juvenile justice were adjudicated. Students are required to submit written briefs on their assigned cases and to make oral reports to the class on the case. Students will be graded on their oral presentations on factors such as content, ability to explain legal concepts in an understandable manner, and correct interpretation of the rule of law. Presentations must include information regarding the facts of the case, issues to be resolved by the court and the rationale which underlies the resolution of the case.
 - * **Research Project:** Students will be required to complete a written research project of at least fifteen (15) typewritten pages. This project will require you to perform research and utilize the same to describe and analyze a topic related to the operation of the juvenile justice system. Students may select from a traditional research paper, a case study, or book review or a topical study article.

You will have a number of resources to assist you with writing in this course. The textbook, lecture, Internet, and library should be relied upon.

Papers are expected to have all the appropriate front and end matter, like a title page, abstract, appendixes, list of references, list of cases cited, and endnotes, if appropriate. These pages do not count as part of the 15 pages of text, and you should have at least ten or more references. That means at least 10 references are required. You may turn in a draft of your term paper before November 13th and receive feedback on it without this affecting your grade. The final form of the term paper which is then submitted on or before November 20th must be word-processed or typewritten, double-spaced, 12 font. Microsoft Word preferred format.

There will be no extensions of time for this deadline, unless otherwise announced. Grading penalties apply to skipping any required parts of the research assignment and/or not following proper assignment instructions.

- * **Court Observation:** Students must attend one (1) session of the Youth Court in Forrest County, Mississippi, scheduled for November 5th, and tour the Forrest County Juvenile Detention Center. There are numerous other opportunities for this assignment over the semester. After observing, students will be required to make a written documentation on their experience in a two- to five-page typewritten summary wherein you relate the description of proceedings, observations to the theoretical underpinnings of the juvenile justice system, and how this assignment aided in your learning experience.

NOTE: YOUTH COURT PROCEEDINGS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND INFORMATION CANNOT BE DISCLOSED. DO NOT UTILIZE NAMES OR OTHER IDENTIFYING INFORMATION IN YOUR SUMMARY. MOREOVER, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO MAINTAIN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENTIALITY WITH REGARD TO THIS EXPERIENCE.

GRADING SCALE:	A	90-100	D	60-69
	B	80-89	F	60 or below
	C	70-79		

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic dishonesty is considered unethical and in violation of academic standards.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty:

Any act done to misrepresent one's knowledge and/or ability in an attempt to gain an academic advantage is considered to be an act of academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to, the following actions or attempted actions:

- * Cheating on examinations
- * Cheating on course assignments
- * Plagiarism
- * Fabrication
- * Misrepresentation

Seeking, obtaining or accessing information in any form or by any method other than the unprompted knowledge of the student constitutes cheating.

Cheating on a test will result in loss of all credit for that test and plagiarism will result in loss of all credit for that paper. Plagiarism is the presentation of the work or ideas of another as one's own.

Cheating on tests or plagiarism will be referred to a departmental committee and thereafter to the Dean of Students for appropriate sanctions. See Page 88 of the Undergraduate Bulletin for the university policy on academic honesty and plagiarism.

Students have the responsibility to adhere to all university rules, regulations, and acceptable standards of conduct. When an act of academic dishonesty is observed or uncovered, the matter will be referred to the appropriate academic authorities.

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND TARDINESS: Students are expected to attend class. A record of class attendance will be kept. Excessive absences may seriously affect the work of the whole class as well as that of the individual students who are absent. Attendance and participation are components in the determination of the student's final grade. Students are expected to not only attend class, but devote out-of-class time to reading and using other resources. AJ 460 is primarily a lecture class; however, students are expected to participate in class discussions. Attendance is mandatory. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students are required to sign the roll sheet which is passed out at the beginning of each class. It is the responsibility of each student to sign the roll. This method is utilized in order to eliminate disputes about actual attendance. A student who is tardy will not be allowed to sign the roll. A student leaving class without dismissal will be counted absent. **MORE THAN THREE (3) ABSENCES (EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED) WILL AUTOMATICALLY REDUCE A STUDENT'S GRADE BY ONE LETTER GRADE.**

TARDINESS: Students are expected to be at class at 6:30 p.m. Chronic tardiness will be used in consideration of the student's final grade.

The Three Tardies Equals One Absence Rule is applied. Tardiness is defined as twenty minutes of any class meeting time, regardless of whether it occurs at the beginning of class (late), the middle of class (break), or end of class (leaving early). Anyone suspected of abusing or exploiting this definition by deliberately and repeatedly keeping it just under twenty minutes will be penalized.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS AND LATE WORK: MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS WILL NOT BE GIVEN. Failure to take an exam during the scheduled time period will result in a failing grade for that exam. However, upon the occurrence of serious illness or other circumstances, supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., that from a physician, clinic, or hospital, one make-up examination may be given. More than one will never be given. Late work is not accepted. Deadlines are announced at least two (2) weeks in advance, if not earlier. Therefore, late work will not be graded. If you foresee a problem, make sure all assignments are turned in prior to the deadline.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS MAY BE USED IN CLASS.

CELL PHONES AND PAGERS MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS. Absolutely no text messaging. Violation of this policy will result in a request to leave the class meeting.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON DISABILITY: If a student has a disability which qualifies under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and

procedures. Disabilities covered by the ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. Mailing address: 118 College Drive, #8586, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 39406-0001; Telephone: 601-266-5027; TTY: 601-266-6837; Fax: 601-266-6035.

IMPORTANT DATES:

First Class:	August 20, 2009
Last Day to Drop Course Without Academic Penalty	September 30, 2009
Fall Break (Class Does Not Meet)	October 8, 2009
Deadline to File Application for Degree	November 6, 2009
Last Class	November 19, 2009
Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)	November 26, 2009
Final Exam	December 3, 2009

MEETINGS SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT: Contact 601-545-6075 or e-mail at jmcpfail@netdoor.com to arrange an appointment. Feel free to e-mail any questions or concerns. Always make sure you "subject" the e-mail with phrase "CJ 460". That way I will open the e-mail and respond. Also, I will be available before class on most scheduled dates for any questions or concerns.

Michael W. McPhail
County and Youth Court Judge
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Fax: 601-545-6105
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Wednesday, August 19:

Wednesday, October 7:

Thursday-Friday, October 8-9:

Wednesday, November 25:

Thursday, December 3:

Classes Begin

Midpoint in Fall Semester

Fall Break - Day and Night Classes Do Not Meet

Thanksgiving Holidays begin - Day and Night

Classes Do Not Meet

Thursday Night Class Examinations