FALL 2017
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
GULF COAST CAMPUS
COURSE: CJ 364 CHILD ABUSE AND THE LAW
INSTRUCTOR: MICHAEL W. MCPHAIL
TUESDAY CLASSES, 6:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
FLEMING EDUCATION CENTER

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

CJ 364 - CHILD ABUSE AND THE LAW (3 HOURS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: (FROM THE USM CATALOG) Child Abuse and the Law (CJ 364) 3 hours. Prerequisite: CJ 360. A study of child abuse and law emphasizing the protection of the child from prevention through prosecution and disposition of offenders.

STUDENT ACCESS TO INSTRUCTOR - MEETINGS SCHEDULED BY
APPOINTMENT: Contact 601-545-6075 or e-mail at michael.mcphaul@usm.edu to arrange an appointment. Feel free to e-mail any questions or concerns. Always make sure you "subject" the e-mail with phrase "CJ 364." That way I will open the e-mail and respond. Also, I will be available before class and after class on most scheduled dates for any questions or concerns.

Michael W. McPhail
County and Youth Court Judge
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REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND READING MATERIALS:

• Nored, L.S. Child Advocacy in Mississippi. (West Law) Thomas Reuters, 2013
  ISBN-2818440013164

• DePanfilis, D., and Salus, M.K. A Coordinated Response to Child Abuse and Neglect: A

• Child Welfare Information Gateway, a service of the Children’s Bureau; Administration
  for Children and Families; and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

• Uniform Rules of Youth Court Practice, State of Mississippi Judiciary Website:
  http://courts.ms.gov/rules/msrules.htm/ under heading "Rules."

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- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, website: http://www.ncjfcj.org/
- Instructional supplements and other resources handed out during the semester

**Student Learning Outcomes**

- Understanding of the relevant areas of law which impact child abuse and neglect.
- Understanding of the many forms of child maltreatment and the child protection process.
- To have and be able to discuss the statutory and case law regarding the many different forms of child maltreatment.
- Understanding the core principle of the best interest of the child.
- Understanding of the justice system in the handling of cases involving abuse and neglect and the role of the participants in the court system.
- To review and understand the child welfare and court system and the major steps in the Youth Court process in Mississippi.
- To have an understanding of “best practices” in child welfare cases.
- Have examined permanency planning in child protection proceedings.
- Have examined proceedings in Chancery Court which include termination of parental rights, adoption and custody proceedings.
- Reviewed criminal offenses which involve children as victims.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Students will have numerous grading opportunities by testing and assignments. A student is required to satisfactorily fulfill the following performance objectives in each category:

- **Class Participation and General Objectives:**
  - Students are expected to read assigned material. Some additional readings and written assignments, not included in this Syllabus, will be assigned during the semester.
  - 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 life situations.

GRADING SYSTEM

• Examinations: There will be two (2) major tests/exams and a final examination. Examinations will be given in accordance with the class schedule. The final examination will be comprehensive in nature for the content covered throughout the semester. The Final Exam is Tuesday, November 28, 2017 from 6:30 p.m to 9:15 p.m.

• Minor Grades: There will be four (4) minor grades that will be given over the semester on participation in class discussion; case briefing; homework assignments; quizzes; and special assignments.

The semester average will be determined as follows:

Four (4) Minor Grades (25%)
Two (2) Major Grades (40%)
One (1) Final Exam (35%)

GRADING SCALE:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59 or Below</td>
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WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS: The last day to add/drop without Academic/Financial Penalty is August 23rd. After this date, no tuition refund whatsoever will be issued, and all approved drops will result in a grade of W. After October 27th, no course withdrawals are permitted (meaning the student will receive an actual grade in the course).

GRADE APPEAL: A student who is not satisfied with the final grade received for a course should first consult with me, the instructor of the course. If this consultation does not resolve the situation, the student should then consult the Director of the School of Criminal Justice offering this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY SYLLABUS STATEMENT: All students at The University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

• Cheating (including copying from others’ work)
• Plagiarism (representing another person’s words or ideas as your own; failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts)
• Falsification of documents
• Disclosure of test or other assignment content to another student
• Submission of the same paper or other assignment to more than one class without the explicit approval of all faculty members’ involved
• Unauthorized academic collaboration with others
• Conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines that a student has violated our Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including the possibility of receiving a grade of “XF” for the course, which will be on the student’s transcript with the notation “Failure due to academic misconduct.”

For more details, please see the University’s Academic Integrity Policy: https://www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-acaf-pro-012 Note that repeated acts of academic misconduct will lead to expulsion from the University.

STUDENT’S CONDUCT: USM expects appropriate conduct of students at all times.

Students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior during class sessions. The measure for assessing unprofessional behavior is the reasonable anticipation test, defined as anything for which an average student should anticipate as unprofessional. Examples of unprofessional behavior include, but are not limited to, disrespect toward the instructor or fellow student, gossip, disrupting instruction or class discussion, using unapproved electronic devices, or eating in class. All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the University’s Policy on Classroom Responsibilities of Faculty and students which may be found on the website of the Office of Provost. See also Student Handbook, 2017-2018, prohibited conduct. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class and are subject to appropriate disciplinary measures, including failure, disenrollment from the class and/or suspension from the University.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to attend class. Attendance and participation are components in the determination of the student’s final grade. 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. Students are expected to not only attend the entire class, but devote out-of-class time to reading and using other resources. CJ 364 is primarily a lecture class; however, students are expected to participate in meaningful 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 leaving class without dismissal will be counted absent.
There are 14 classes this semester, excluding holidays and the final exam. The final course grade may be reduced for excessive absences, as follows:

- 3 absences—1 letter grade reduction
- 4 absences—2 letter grades reduction
- 5 absences—class failure

TARDINESS: Class begins at 6:30 p.m. Students are expected to be in the classroom at 6:30 p.m. A student who is tardy will not be allowed to sign the on-time roll and will be noted on the tardy class roll. Chronic tardiness will be used in consideration of the student’s final grade with a reduction in letter grade(s).

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS AND LATE WORK: If a student has to miss class, on the day the student returns to class, he or she has the responsibility of contacting the instructor in order to schedule any make-up work.

A student may make up work missed if valid reasons for missing, such as illness, accident, or other extenuating circumstances are accepted by the instructor. A student has one week after returning to class to schedule make-up work unless circumstances indicate that extra time is needed. Regular scheduled tests and examinations missed without a valid reason will be recorded as a grade of zero.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS MAY BE USED IN CLASS.

TAPING LECTURES: Students at USM may tape lectures.

Students who wish to tape lectures of this class should notify the instructor of their intention of taping the lecture. The taping of the lecture should not disrupt the class activities.

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 and noted on the class attendance roster as an absence.

USM POLICY ON DISABILITY: If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American 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 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.

Students can contact ODA at 228-214-3232 or visit the website at usm.edu/oda(hbg).
Modifications and Deviations:

**Syllabus:** Instructor may modify this syllabus in any or all or all respects on timely notice to student.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

**Instruction:** Instructor may deviate from the course calendar and/or prescribed course of instruction during any class period or periods, at his discretion.

**AUGUST 2017**

Tuesday, August 22

Introduction to Class
Key Principles of Child Protection
Philosophical Tenets of Child Protection
What is Child Abuse and Neglect?
  - Definitions in Federal Law
  - Definitions in State Law
  - General Definitions by Type of Maltreatment

Tuesday, August 29

History of Child Abuse and Neglect
  - Responding to Children in Crisis
  - Who Is Involved in Child Protection?
  - Research on Child Abuse and Neglect

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

Tuesday, September 5

Extent of the Problem
  - Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics
  - Perpetrators
  - Risk Factors That Contribute To Child Abuse and Neglect

Tuesday, September 12

Effects of Child Abuse and Neglect

Tuesday, September 19

The Mississippi Youth Court Act (Chapter 3) and Child Protection Services
Which Laws and Policies Guide Public Intervention in Child Abuse and Neglect?

Tuesday, September 26

FIRST MAJOR EXAM

OCTOBER 2017

Tuesday, October 3

What Can Be Done To Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect?

Chapter 1: Child Abuse Prevention

• Prevention as a Strategy Service Planning
  • Primary
  • Secondary
• Types of Prevention and Treatment Services For Children

• Child Abuse Prevention Strategies and Programs
  • In-Home Services
  • Out-of-Home Placement Services

Tuesday, October 10

Laws and Policies That Guide Intervention in Child Abuse and Neglect

The Legal System and Child Abuse and Neglect
Children in the Courtroom (Chapter 9)

• What does the Child Protection System look like?
• Systemic Roles and Responsibilities
  • Child Protective Services
  • Law Enforcement
  • Legal and Judicial System

Tuesday, October 17

What Does The Child Protection Process Look Like?

• Reporting
  • Mandated Reporting
  • Reporting Procedures
  • Immunity to Reporters
  • Penalties for Failure To Report
  • Problems in Reporting

Tuesday, October 24

What Happens After The Report Is Made?

• Intake
• Initial Assessment/Investigation
• Family Assessment
Tuesday, October 31  Case Planning and Permanency Planning

• Reunification
• Guardianship/Relative Placement
• Independent Living
• Adoption
  • Termination of Parental Rights

NOVEMBER 2017

Tuesday, November 7  Abuse and Neglect. Crimes Against Children (Chapter 8) and Mississippi Statutes

• Treatment
• Evaluation of Family Progress–Reviews
• Case Closure

Tuesday, November 14  SECOND MAJOR EXAM

Tuesday, November 21  Review– Child Maltreatment Prevention: Past, Present, and Future

Tuesday, November 28  Final Exam

The Fall 2017 full-term Academic Calendar may be found online at USM– Office of the Registrar.