Requirements:

All students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussion. Frequent unexcused absence may result in a point deduction in the final grade. Fairly consistent class participation may result in a point addition to the final grade.

The course grade will be based entirely on the final in-class exam (though it may be modified upwards or downwards as specified above). The exam will be closed-book, though one 8.5x11 sheet of notes, both sides, will be permitted.

The readings from this class are from Areen’s Family Law case book (“text”). Additional short readings may be distributed in the course of the semester. Students will be expected to be familiar with all materials covered in the readings and discussed in class.

Schedule of classes:

January 25: Introduction

January 27: — no class — (Wisconsin State Bar Convention)

February 1: PARENTS AND CHILDREN
Introduction: In re Marriage of Buzzanca
  text pp. 1081 -1090,
  A. The Traditional Model
  text pp. 1109 - 1112,
  B. Other Views of the Parent-Child Relationship
  text pp. 1112 - 1124;

February 3 and February 8: PARENTS AND CHILDREN (continued)
  C. Encroachments on the Doctrine of Family Privacy
  text pp. 1124 - 1169;

February 10, February 15, and February 17: PARENTS AND CHILDREN (continued)
  D. When Parent, Child and State Disagree
  text pp. 1169 - 1227;
February 22: PARENTS AND CHILDREN (continued)
   E. The Child Born Out of Wedlock
      text pp. 1227 - 1245;

February 24 and February 29: PARENTS AND CHILDREN (continued)
   F. The Extended Family
      text pp. 1245 - 1274;

March 2: GROWING UP IN THE LAW
   A. Age Distinctions in Tort Law
      text pp. 1274 - 1286,
   B. Age and the Capacity to Contract
      text pp. 1286 - 1294;

March 7: GROWING UP IN THE LAW
   C. Age and Property Rights
      text pp. 1294 - 1296,
   D. Age and the First Amendment
      text pp. 1296 - 1313;

March 9: GROWING UP IN THE LAW
   E. Emancipation
      text pp. 1313 - 1326;

March 14 and March 16: SPRING BREAK

March 21, March 23, and March 28: CHILD NEGLECT AND ABUSE
   A. What Should be the Standards for Intervening Between Parent and Child?
      text pp. 1326 - 1366;

March 30: CHILD NEGLECT AND ABUSE
   B. Intermediate Dispositions
      text pp. 1366 - 1382;

April 4: CHILD NEGLECT AND ABUSE
   C. Permanent Dispositions
      text pp. 1382 - 1393;

April 6 and April 11: CHILD NEGLECT AND ABUSE
   D. Procedure
      text pp. 1393 - 1422;
April 13: ADOPTION
   A. Background
      text pp. 1422 - 1423,
   B. What Should be the Standards for Approving Adoptive Parents?
      text pp. 1423 - 1443;

April 18: ADOPTION
   C. The Challenge of Independent Adoptions
      text pp. 1443 - 1450,
   D. Equitable Adoption
      text pp. 1450 - 1455,
   E. Federal Law
      text pp. 1455 - 1460;

April 20 and April 25: ADOPTION
   F. Procedure
      text pp. 1460 - 1500;

April 27: ADOPTION
   G. Legal Consequences of Being Adopted
      text pp. 1500 - 1519;

May 2: ADOPTION
   H. International Adoption

May 4: Summary