Course Materials

- **Casebook**

- **Additional Required Materials**
  Additional materials that students will be responsible for, including this syllabus, will be posted on the TWEN page for the course from time to time. All students are expected to sign up for and regularly check the TWEN page for the course.

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Understand the fundamentals of medical malpractice law;
- Appreciate the policy issues underlying medical malpractice law; and
- Be able to identify and analyze medical malpractice law problems using the IRAC (Issue, Rule, Analysis, Conclusion) method.

Grading

- **In-class Midterm/Practice Exam/WAC—Pass/Fail; MANDATORY**
  There will be a two (2)-page, take-home writing assignment that will constitute the mid-term assignment, which is a practice exam and also fulfills the writing across the curriculum (WAC) requirement for the course. Additionally, this assignment constitutes the makeup for the class session that will be missed on November 11 for Veterans Day, which is a University holiday. The assignment is mandatory and will be graded on a pass/fail basis. **The assignment must be turned in hard copy—with two (2) copies turned in to the Professors at the start of the designated class (4:00 p.m.).** The assignment must also be submitted via email to Dr. Ryan prior to class on the same date.

- **Final Examination—100%—Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at 1:15 p.m.**
  The final exam will be a two (2)-hour, closed-book, closed-notes essay exam to be written in a formal final examination environment. It will be graded on demonstrated knowledge, analysis, and application of the relevant legal principles and public policies underpinning medical malpractice law—based on the given fact pattern and questions provided on the exam. It will constitute 100% of the class grade.

- **Potential Participation Bonus**
  Each student has the potential to earn a participation bonus of up to 0.2, which is added to the final grade. The bonus, if any, is based on particularly high-quality, consistent, voluntary, thoughtful, and meaningful class participation that is relevant to class materials and discussion.

Clinical Rotation (Optional)

Approved students are eligible to sign up for a one (1)-hour clinical rotation for S/U (pass-fail) credit. **Sign up for the clinical rotation will occur during the first or second class meeting.** The clinical rotation students are required to spend approximately 36 hours during the course of the semester in approved clinical settings and submit a short journal documenting their hours and experiences, referencing how the legal concepts they have learned apply in the daily practice of medicine.
Reading Assignments in Textbook
Reading assignments for class will be posted on TWEN.

Use of TWEN
Students are expected to check all relevant sections of the TWEN page for the course prior to each class.

Attendance
This course meets on Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Class starts promptly at the designated time, so please be on time, in your assigned seat, and ready to go! As specified in the Rules of the Southern Illinois University School of Law, “regular attendance to class meets in all courses is expected and required of all students…. Attendance will be taken in class and attendance records will be kept. Violation of this rule shall subject the student to penalties....” It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that he or she signs the attendance sheet during class. Students also need to note that the School of Law Honor Code states that it is academic misconduct to “sign[] another[ student’s] name to an attendance sheet for a class [that other student] did not attend,” or to “sign his or her [own] name to an attendance sheet for a class he or she did not attend.” Such Honor Code violations carry severe penalties.

Students may have no more than a maximum of three (3) absences (partial or total)—for ANY reason (other than documented jury duty, the student’s documented hospitalization, or a documented death in the student’s immediate family. Documentation must be submitted to and deemed acceptable by the Professors.). Students with more than three (3) absences will be referred to the Associate Dean and will be given the lowest possible grade—a failing grade—for the course. Furthermore, students will be called on in class and are expected to be prepared. Being “prepared” means being ready and able to intelligently discuss all facets of the assigned materials. Students may NOT “Note Out” of this class. Students found to be unprepared by the Professors will be marked absent for the day.

Accessibility
- **Dr. and Professor Ryan:** Dr. Ryan is available by email and phone for both questions and to make an in-person appointment directly prior to class to discuss matters related to the class. You can email Dr. Ryan at marshagryan@gmail.com.

- **Professor Mekel:** Professor Mekel is available by email for both questions and to make an in-person appointment directly prior to class to discuss matters related to the class. You can email Professor Mekel via the course TWEN page.

Communication Devices and In-class Use of Laptops
Cell phones and similar communication devices must be turned off during class. Laptops and tablets are allowed for note-taking purposes only. Students found to be using their computing devices for non-class-related activities during class will lose the privilege of using their computer during class for the remainder of the semester. See also Kevin Yamamoto, Banning Laptops in the Classroom: Is It Worth the Hassles? 57 J. LEG. EDUC. 477 (2007).

Notice of Recording Policy
Classes and lectures are not, will not be recorded, and are not to be recorded by students. Pursuant to the Honor Code, given this prohibition on recording, any student who “accesses, creates or disseminates audio or visual recording of a class session or assigned course-related activity[,] ... when the instructor has prohibited such recording[,]” “shall be guilty of an Honor Code violation.” Honor Code I.E.1.g.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Disability Support Services (DSS) provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must go to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. See:
http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/. Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreement to the School of Law Registrar’s Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations.

**Saluki Cares**
The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate, and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students, and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: 618.453-5714, siucares@siu.edu, or http://salukicares.siu.edu/index.html. At the School of Law, Assistant Dean Judi Ray is also available to help students access university resources. Her email is judiray@siu.edu, and her phone number is 618.453-3135.

**Emergency Procedures**
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.** The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.