State and Local Government, Law 585-3  
Tuesday & Thursday, 3:00-4:15 p.m., Fall 2016  
Lesar Law Building Room 102

Contact Information:  
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Introduction

Welcome to the Law School’s course on State and Local Government. This is only the third time that I have taught the class, but I have much experience practicing in some of the areas we will discuss. I am therefore confident that we will learn much this semester.

Historically, Professor Tom Britton taught this course. He has been a great help to me in preparing for this semester. In fact, I have largely plagiarized his old syllabus. So when you see him please give him your thanks!

I. Scope of the Course:

This course provides an introduction to the law related to state government, the state/federal relationship, and other subdivisions of state and local government including counties, townships, municipalities and special local government units. The course will focus on the powers and duties of these various government entities and questions of jurisdiction. Examples and problems will be drawn largely from the Illinois experience. The course will be especially useful to those who plan to practice in small to medium sized cities and whose practice is likely to include representation of governmental bodies.

II. Class Management:

Assignments are made on TWEN. They will consist of readings posted on TWEN. There are no textbooks to buy for this course. All students are required to read the entire assignment and participate in class discussion.

III. Attendance: I do not have tenure and I really like this job. The Law School rules require that I take attendance. Therefore, attendance will be taken daily on an attendance sheet circulated during class. If you are unprepared for class, please advise me of that fact before class commences. I believe that you will learn valuable material even if you are unprepared for the class. Therefore, I prefer that you attend even if you are not prepared. By letting me know in advance that you are not prepared, I can avoid humiliating you by calling on you. However, do not let this happen very often or I will revoke your privilege. If you do not so inform me in
advance of class, your genuine signature on the attendance sheet will constitute a representation that you have read the assigned material and are prepared to discuss the material in an intelligent fashion. The presence or absence of your genuine signature on the attendance sheet will also constitute a conclusive presumption of your presence or absence during that class period.

Otherwise we will observe the School of Law policy on attendance. Students who for whatever reason miss more than six (6) class sessions will be withdrawn from the course. Stated another way, you have six absences.

IV. Grading:

I have not yet decided how I will grade the course, except that there WILL be a final exam, and there may be mid-term examination. They will likely be take-home exams. The grades of students who have elected to take this course with S/U grading will be converted by the Registrar according to the following scale: 2.1 or greater = Satisfactory; below 2.1 = Unsatisfactory. Only students who receive a grade of Satisfactory will earn academic credit for the course.

V. Tentative Schedule:

**August 23**
Review of Syllabus
Opening discussion

**August 25**
Organization of Government:
Section I, posted on TWEN
Introduction
State Government
Units of Local Government
Equal Protection and Due Process

OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF:

*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](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Safety’s website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://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.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION POLICY:** Disability Support Services 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 come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. [http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/](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, or siucares@siu.edu, [http://salukicares.siu.edu/index.html](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.