Syllabus
Torts, Section 1
Fall 2016

**Class sessions:** room 108 (aka the Courtroom – how perfect!)
11:00am - 12:15pm, Mondays and Wednesdays
11:00am – 11:50am, Fridays

**Teacher:** Sheila Simon
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Office phone 618 453-8148
Secretary: Carol Manis
Teaching Assistant: Youssef Boudjarane


**What you can expect to learn:** This is a jam packed, one semester class that will get you to look differently at every fist bump you exchange, every wrinkle in a rug you might trip over, and every warning to not do something dangerous. More specifically, you will learn to identify what kinds of harms can be addressed through civil law, explain how responsibility for those harms is divided up and assigned, think through what defenses may exist, and assess what kind of remedies may be available.

And you will learn more than just the law of torts. You will learn to identify sources of law, analyze statutes and cases, apply law to new facts, and explain what you have learned to others. Along with your other first year classes, this class will help form the foundation of your professional service to your clients and your community.

**Attendance:** Be here, it’s what you paid for. I work hard to make sure class time is valuable to you. And if you miss more than eight classes, you will not be allowed to take the final.

**Active learning:** Some of the ways you will learn in law school will be familiar, and some will be challenging. Plan to be actively engaged in each class session. Preparing for class is important, and don’t skip pulling it all together after each class. In order to keep a sharp focus on what we get out of each class, I will assign each student to be reporter for one class session. The reports will be shared with the class.

Most Fridays (Torts Go Insane Fridays) will require active participation from every student. Be ready to rumble!
Grading: Your grade will be based on the following factors: A series of short papers, worth a total of 30%, a mid-term worth 20% and a final worth 50%.

D2L: Keep posted on news (torts are sooo newsworthy), assignments, any changes in the syllabus and other good stuff through D2L.

Office hours: Always feel free to stop by my office before or after class. All questions are welcome. I am teaching only part time at the law school this semester, so I won’t be around the school all the time. Feel free to set up an appointment with me if times before or after class don’t work for you. I’ll make sure we can get together.

Recording class sessions: As a general rule, I will not allow audio or video recording in class. My sense is that you will be more likely to participate in and learn from the class if you are not worried that someone else is recording you. If there are special circumstances that you believe require recording, please talk with me.

Final exam: The final exam in this class will be held on Tuesday, December 13, at 8:15am.

Yikes! Stress! The University and the School of Law recognize that there are lots of potential stressors in your life. Here is some information on a campus-wide effort to be there to support you: 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. 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.

Disabilities: I want everyone in this class to succeed. If a disability is challenging you, here is some information about how to seek accommodations: 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/. 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.

Emergency Procedures: 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.

Target schedule:
This is the plan for the semester. I expect it will change some over the course of the semester. As changes are made I will post the revised schedule on D2L.

August 22 and 24 Chapter 1, Intentional torts
August 26 TGIF: meet the client
August 29 and 31 Chapter 2, Privileges and Defenses
September 2 TGIF: how a lawsuit works
September 5 No class – Labor Day. But torts will still be a part of your weekend.
September 7 and 9 Chapter 3, Negligence
September 12 and 14 Chapter 4, Actual Causation
September 16 TGIF: your day in court!
September 19 and 21 Chapter 5, Proximate cause
September 23 TGIF: crash course in legal writing
September 26 and 28 Chapter 6, Limited duty rules
September 30 Mid-term performance exam
October 3 and 5 Chapter 7, Land and torts
October 7 TGIF: investigation
October 10 and 12 Chapter 8, Affirmative defenses
October 14    TGIF: discovery
October 17 and 19    Chapters 9 and 10, Joint tortfeasors and strict liability
October 21    TGIF: demand letters
October 24 and 26    Chapter 11, Products liability
October 28    TGIF: negotiation
Oct. 31 and Nov. 2    Chapter 15, Defamation
(Torts-themed Halloween costume contest on Monday!)
November 4    TGIF: alternative dispute resolution
November 7    Chapter 16, Privacy
November 9    TGIF: for real, you can do this for a living.
November 11    No class, Veterans Day. But torts will be a part your weekend
November 14 and 16    Chapter 13, Damages
November 18    TGIF: the value of money
November 21 - 25    Thanksgiving break
November 28 and 30    Chapter 14, Alternatives to Tort Law
December 2    TGIF: Last day of class!
December 13    Final exam 8:15am