Syllabus

Property I, Section 2
Fall 2018

Class sessions: room 206
11:00am-12:15pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Teacher: Sheila Simon
Office: room 250
Email: ssimon@siu.edu
Office phone 618 536-8321
Secretary: Cynthia Alexander
Teaching Assistant: Pilar Pitts


What you can expect to learn: This class is the first semester of a year-long course, a course that is taught to just about every first year law student in the United States. In this semester you will learn what kinds of property there are, how people get property, how they can get rid of the property, and how they can have the property taken away. That sounds pretty vague, right? To be more specific, you will learn to identify the kind of interest someone has in property, how that interest can be transferred to someone else, and what kind of challenges are posed when the package of property rights are split between different people.

And you will learn more than just the law of property. 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 six classes, you will not be allowed to take the final. But plan to do more than just attend class. Plan to be a part of it. The more you are actively engaged in class the more you will be able to retain and use the law that we study.

One way that all students will be able to participate in class is by being one of the daily note-takers for class. Your notes and outline of the day will be shared with the rest of the class, and you will get to provide a quick recap of the class in the following class session. I think you’ll like this. 😊

Workload expectations: You might not have thought about how much work you will put into each class, but the American bar Association has! The American Bar Association standards for accrediting law schools contain a formula for calculating the amount of work that constitutes one credit hour. According to ABA Standard 310(b)(1), “a “credit hour” is an amount of work that reasonably approximates: (1) not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and
two hours of out-of-class student work per week for fifteen weeks, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time.” This is a three credit hour class, meaning that we will spend two 65 minute blocks of time together each week. The amount of assigned reading and out of class preparation should take you about three hours for each class session and six hours for the week. All told, applying the ABA standard to the number of credits offered for this class, you should plan on spending a total of nine hours per week (three in class and six preparing for class) on course-related work.

**Grades:** Your grade will be based on the following factors:

- A quick oral quiz: 5 points
- A short paper based on a client interview: 10 points
- An advice letter to a client: 10 points
- A mid-term: 25 points
- A final exam: 50 points.

I will use your total points for the semester and apply the required median and required curve for a first year class to calculate your grade for the course.

**D2L:** Keep posted on news, assignments, any changes in the syllabus and other good stuff through D2L.

**Office hours:** Our class is just before the lunch break, so after class is a great time to ask questions. Bring your PB & J. Beyond that, I am a total nerd and spend a lot of time in the office, so stop by any time you see me there. I teach a class on Mediation Skills on Thursday at 4, and on Crime Victims and Witnesses on Friday mornings, so those are times I won’t be available. Also feel free to schedule an appointment.

**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 Friday, December 7, 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 618-453-8135.
**Disabilities and accommodations:** 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/](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:** 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.

**Tentative schedule:**
This is the target schedule for the semester. I expect it will change some over the course of the semester. As those changes are made I will post the revised syllabus on D2L. For each class day I have noted a summary of the topic, the reading assignment from our text, and a musical reference that has almost no education purpose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Welcome! What is property? pages 1-11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mule Train, Frankie Laine</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>Keep Out! pages 11-28</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Leave Me Alone, Michael Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sign up for time for oral quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>What’s mine is mine? pages 30-54</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We’re Not Going to Take It, Twisted Sister</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Don’t forget to stop by for your oral quiz this week</td>
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</tbody>
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August 30 A gut feeling for property pages 56-70
Spleen, from Ariettes Oubliees, Debussy

September 4 Possession means what? pages 71-105, client interview in class
What does the Fox Say?, Ylvis

September 6 Dibs! pages 106 - 130
The Fish Song, The Three Stooges

September 11 Finder keepers, losers sweepers? pages 130-145
Finders Keeps, Mabel
Introduction to live client meeting

September 13 live client meeting in class

September 18 Bought and paid for. pages 146-162
Little Red Corvette, Prince

September 20 Snooze and lose. pages 162- 192
Adversity, Beach Fossils
Turn in notes from live client meeting

September 24-29: mid-term week – schedule changes in every class
Our mid-term will be 10:00am on Friday, September 28
There will be an optional review of the multiple choice questions and answers at 12:15 on the day of the mid-term. Bring your own PB & J.

October 2 The end of adversity. pages 193-202
Don’t Fence Me In, Roy Rogers

October 4 The gift horse. pages 205-234
Simple Gifts, Allison Kraus and Yo Yo Ma

October 9 While I live and breathe! pages 237- 263
Waste, Foster the People

October 11 Chasing tail? pages 265-290
Fee, Phish

October 16 Looking into the future pages 290-310
Future Starts Slow, the Kills

October 18 Forever – not. pages 310-333
Unforgettable, French Montana

October 23 RAP up review
October 25  So happy together  pages 334-355, 357-367
advice letter assignment to be introduced
Happy together, The Turtles
Introduction of client letter assignment

October 30  My side of the refrigerator  pages 367-380
Pre-Halloween costume contest
Partition, Beyonce

November 1  Till death do us part  pages 383-392
D-I-V-O-R-C-E, Tammy Wynette
Hand in client advice letter

November 6  Turn that music down!  pages 393-415
The Sounds of Silence, Simon & Garfunkel

November 8  I don't want to live here anymore.  pages 417-439
Sublet Song, The Cheap Moves

November 13  Fix the toilet please!  pages 440-462
Tear It Down, Old Crow Medicine Show

November 15  You break it you pay?  pages 462-484
Twist and Shout, The Beatles

November 20 & 22  Thanksgiving break – oh yeah!

November 27  You're outta here!  pages 484-502
Eviction Song, Travis James and the Acrimonious Assembly of Arsonists

November 29  Let's be fair about this.  pages 506-517
Not Fair, Lily Allen

December 12  8:15am Final exam