Syllabus
Children and the Law
Law 549-2
Spring, 2016

Class sessions: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30 – 2:20pm, room 108

Teacher: Sheila Simon, ssimon@siu.edu, office phone 618 453-8148
Secretary: Carol Manis


What you can expect to learn: In this class you will continue to determine what the law is from cases, statutes and other sources. And you will continue to apply existing law to facts that lawmakers may never have contemplated. The unique challenge in this class will be to assess a legal system in which the subjects of the law are not voters, lawmakers, property owners or wage earners. You will learn to critique the system and understand the role of advocates both for their individual clients and for systemic change.

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

Grading: Your grade will be based on the following factors: One paper on a topic of your choice, worth 25% of your grade; a presentation to the class, worth 25% of your grade, and a final exam worth 50% of your grade.

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

Office hours: In addition to our class, I have two other classes that meet from 11:00 to 12:15 Monday through Thursday. But outside of those times I am the classic nerd, working in my office. So stop by any time. If you want to reserve some time, 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 Thursday, May 5, at 1:15pm.

Workload expectations: Even if you haven’t thought about this, the American Bar Association has. The ABA’s 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 two credit hour class, so the assigned reading and out of class preparation should take you about two hours for each class session or four hours for the week. Bottom line, the ABA expects that you will spend a total of six hours per week on this class. This guideline seems pretty smart to me.

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.

Tentative schedule: This is the target schedule for the semester. For most topics, reading assignments will be divided among class members so that we can cover the topics in a complete but efficient manner.
January 20 course orientation. Be prepared to choose one of the topics below for the focus of your paper and presentation. Reading assignment for all students: pages 1-17 and 113-124

January 25 status, rights and obligations of children. Reading to be assigned on Jan 20

February 1 defining the parent-child relationship. Reading for all students: 125-138, plus reading to be assigned on Jan 25

February 8 representing children. Reading for all students: 207 – 213, plus reading to be assigned on Feb 1

February 15 abuse and neglect. Reading for all students: 279- 284, and 431-438 plus reading to be assigned on February 8

February 22 foster care. Reading for all students: 439-444, plus reading to be assigned on February 15

February 29 criminal abuse and neglect. Reading for all students: 537, plus reading to be assigned on February 22

March 7 adoption. Reading for all students: 631-634, plus reading to be assigned on February 29. All papers are due by Friday, March 11.

March 14 Spring break. Yay!

March 21 medical decision making. Reading to be assigned on March 7

March 28 financial responsibility and control. Reading to be assigned on March 21

April 4 regulation of children’s conduct. Reading to be assigned on March 28

April 11 delinquency. Reading for all students: 981-988, plus reading to be assigned on April 4

April 18 domestic violence. Read the Illinois Domestic Violence Act, 750 ILCS 60/101 et seq. Some things you can breeze over, but pay closer attention to the purposes of the Act, the definitions, the persons protected, and the remedies.

April 25 education rights. Reading to be assigned on April 18.

May 5 1:15pm Final exam