INSTRUCTORS: Prof. Jennifer Brobst (jbrobst@siu.edu) and Prof. Carolyn Pointer (cpointer49@siumed.edu) (both cross-appointed SIU Schools of Law and Medicine) (see http://www.siumed.edu/news/Faculty/Pointer.html; http://law.siu.edu/our-people/faculty/law-faculty/brobst.html)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This three credit online senior writing seminar will provide students with an understanding of the legal, theoretical, and practical implications of the need for and access to health care in rural communities. Students will learn to identify the cultural, health-related and legal strengths and challenges that accompany life in less populated and more isolated parts of the world, through an examination of local, state, national and international law and public policy. Traditional and innovative strategies regarding effective means of legally representing individuals in rural communities will be addressed, including medical legal partnerships and the use of remote communications. Relevant policy and law reform measures will also be explored, such as the balance between private and public interests in addressing chronic health conditions, veterans’ medical needs, and aging populations more prevalent in rural communities, or the effectiveness of Federally Qualified Health Centers and the medical standard of care given the scarcity of medical specialists.


OFFICE HOURS AND MAILBOX: By appointment. Please also feel free to contact Paula Hartsock (http://law.siu.edu/our-people/civil-service/hartsock.html) in the Center for Health Law and Policy main office if you need assistance.

SENIOR WRITING SEMINAR: This course satisfies the senior writing seminar requirement for graduation from SIU Law School. See: http://law.siu.edu/_common/documents/rules-code/senior-writing-rules-ay14-15.pdf

HEALTH LAW SPECIALIZATION: This course satisfies a health law specialization requirement in either the elective health law course or the writing requirement (but not both) (see http://law.siu.edu/_common/documents/specialization-in-health-law-and-policy-checklist.pdf). Students interested in the specialization may contact Prof. Brobst for more information and should also sign up for the Center for Health Law and Policy TWEN page for additional information and updates.

ONLINE COURSE INSTRUCTIONS: This is an online course using the TWEN format. Lectures and materials will be posted each week (M-Th) and any student discussion or submission requirements must be completed and submitted online by Sunday midnight for participation credit.
GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Class participation and attendance (10%)**
  - See SIU Law Attendance Policy
  - For full participation credit, students are expected to (5%)
    - contribute to every class discussion when professors and/or student discussion leaders invite comment using the reading and its legal and policy support for their views (sharing past relevant experience is welcome but please avoid unsupported personal opinion as to current events)
    - Student discussion leaders will be designated a week to take the lead with discussion, which includes: selecting an article or video that raises new issues on rural health care in the news relevant to the week's topic (by Friday before the week of discussion -- share reading/viewing material online with class and provide a complex question (may have subparts if needed) for class discussion are expected to provide key insights into the reading and to research and share new material for enhanced class discussion
  - Students must fully research and participate in one Roundtable Discussion with their assigned positions (5%)
  - Per the law school regulations, students must be responsive to email communications with faculty (see: [http://law.siu.edu/_common/documents/rules-code/email-rule-ay14-15.pdf](http://law.siu.edu/_common/documents/rules-code/email-rule-ay14-15.pdf))

- **Field assignment and presentation (20%)**
  - Students will conduct a 20-30 minute interview in a rural community with a key player addressing access to and quality of health care in that community: e.g., an attorney who practices at least part-time in health law (medical malpractice, bankruptcy, public defender, elder law, guardian ad litem), a health care provider (hospital, institutional, or outpatient), public health department director
  - Students will then conduct legal and policy research on one or two of the related concerns shared by the local interviewee to include possible local administrative law, institutional policies, ethics rules, and state or federal law
  - Submission:
    - Write a 4-5 page field summary of the practical and legal problem(s) specifically researched, with citations to relevant law, policy, and other materials (10%)
    - Produce a 15-20 minute recorded presentation (e.g., video of speaker, powerpoint with voiceover, with visuals of the area (must take some pictures of the area, office where interviewed, student in location)) addressing the memo’s content as well as the student’s own reaction to what was learned and what should be done (policy/law initiatives – be as specific as possible) (10%)
  - **Note:** Reduction in class time to accommodate for field assignment interviews
• **Legal Policy & Strategic Analysis Memo (70%)**
  o **Write a substantial (30 page minimum) legal research memo on a rural health law and policy topic of choice**
  o First, submit a 1-2 page memo explaining your topic selection and preliminary research (5%)
  o Second, submit a first draft (20 pages minimum) (5%) – followed by individual professor/student conferences
  o Third, submit a second draft (30 pages minimum) (5%) – followed by professor/peer student commentary & ranking
  o Final memo submission (55%)
  o **Note:** Reduction in class time to accommodate for significant research and writing

**Note for ALL written work:**

- FORMAT - double spaced (except single space headings, block quotes, and footnotes), 12 point font text/10 point font footnotes, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins on all sides, page numbers in same font centered at bottom of page, student name/date/course title in header at top of each page
- WRITING SKILLS PODCASTS – as a Senior Writing Seminar you will be provided with ongoing instruction in advanced legal writing skills, including advanced citation; *purchasing a Bluebook Citation Manual (19th ed.) is highly recommended*

**Note on grading:**

- Due to the nature of the assignments, anonymous grading is not possible in this course
- This course is co-taught and co-graded – individual assignments may be graded by one or both professors
- Submission timing will be date/time recorded as sent online (not received)
- Late submissions will be counted off by 1/3 of a grade within each 24 hour period past the deadline (e.g., if due on Mon by 5pm and submitted on Mon at 5:30pm (B+ becomes a B), but if submitted Wed 8am (B+ becomes B-)
- Course is graded on the SIU Law curve for upper division courses with fewer than 13 students (see [http://law.siu.edu/_common/documents/rules-code/grading-rules-ay14-15.pdf](http://law.siu.edu/_common/documents/rules-code/grading-rules-ay14-15.pdf) (Article III(1)(b)(v) - note that usual grade distribution is not required for smaller classes (c))
## COURSE OUTLINE

### QUALITY AND ACCESS IN RURAL HEALTH CARE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>READING &amp; PRESENTATION ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER</th>
<th>DEADLINE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/15</td>
<td>Intro to rural health</td>
<td>Legally defining rural; distinguishing rural needs from suburban and urban; health-related demographic trends in rural America</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/15</td>
<td>Access to healthcare</td>
<td>Sparse population concentration and isolation; Rural poverty; Federally Qualified Health Centers; Need for specialists; Emergency care</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/22</td>
<td>Health insurance in rural communities</td>
<td>Medicaid, Medicare, ACA, Veterans Benefits, Benefits appeals, Mental health parity, gaps in care (e.g., assistive devices, dental care, reproductive care)</td>
<td>John Borgens</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/22</td>
<td>Medical legal partnerships</td>
<td>Various interdisciplinary models, debate on complex privacy and consent considerations</td>
<td>Anyiamin Fomengia</td>
<td>MEMO TOPIC DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/29</td>
<td>Telehealth strategies</td>
<td>Various models, debate on complex standard of care considerations</td>
<td>Lemuel Gage</td>
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</table>

### LEGAL STRATEGIES FOR EQUITABLE RURAL HEALTH CARE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>Roundtable #1: After Hobby Lobby: Law, Religion and Healthcare in Rural America</th>
<th>Paying for Others: Homelessness, Immigration, and Chronic Poverty in Rural America</th>
<th>Roundtable #2</th>
<th>Paying for Others: Homelessness, Immigration, and Chronic Poverty in Rural America</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/13</td>
<td>Healthcare on federal and Indian lands</td>
<td>American Indian and federal jurisdiction over healthcare; equity and access; migratory populations on federal lands</td>
<td>Bill Geiler</td>
<td>MEMO 1&lt;sup&gt;ST&lt;/sup&gt; DRAFT DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/20</td>
<td>Public health &amp; class actions</td>
<td>Workers compensation and class action litigation in agriculture and mining in rural communities</td>
<td>Chelsea Grubb</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/27</td>
<td>Chronic disease and rural life</td>
<td>International comparative law and policy strategies addressing trends in chronic health, including obesity, interpersonal violence, and smoking and substance abuse, with considerations of class, culture, age, political resources and will</td>
<td>David Jenkins</td>
<td>FIELD SUMMARY &amp; PRES. DUE</td>
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### REGIONAL FOCUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>READING &amp; PRESENTATION ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER</th>
<th>DEADLINE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/27</td>
<td>Delta region</td>
<td></td>
<td>Amanda Kneer</td>
<td>MEMO 2&lt;sup&gt;ND&lt;/sup&gt; DRAFT DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/27</td>
<td>Prairie region</td>
<td>Interstate medical-legal collaborations in the prairie state region</td>
<td>Joshua Reeves</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK</td>
<td>SUBJECT</td>
<td>READING &amp; PRESENTATION ASSIGNMENTS</td>
<td>STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER</td>
<td>DEADLINE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mountain region</td>
<td>Interstate medical-legal collaborations in the Rocky Mountain, Appalachian, and Upper Northeast regions</td>
<td>Tess Shubert</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/3</td>
<td>Alaskan region</td>
<td>State, federal, tribal, and international collaborations</td>
<td>Cynthia Trice</td>
<td>MEMO PEER COMMENTS DUE</td>
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<td>Final class</td>
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<td>Kristen Winkler</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/7</td>
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<td>FINAL MEMO DUE</td>
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**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

**Academic Integrity and Honesty:** Students must adhere to the SIU Student Conduct Code policies prohibiting plagiarism, cheating on examinations, false statements regarding assignment completion and authorship, false assertions regarding attendance, and other forms of dishonesty in academic performance.

**Wellness and Disability Disclosure Statement:** SIU has multiple resources for students with personal needs for support, including legal, mental health, medical, disability, anti-discrimination, and other services (see http://www.law.siu.edu/about/student-experience/support-services.html). Students with disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations and academic adjustments (see http://disabilityservices.siu.edu). Any student requiring official accommodation because of a disability should contact the Associate Dean’s Office at the law school. All students are welcome to discuss any course-related needs or strengths with the professor and other administrative staff, and to seek referrals to resources off campus. Please feel free to use the Center for Health Law & Policy reading room if you would like a quiet study space. Printed wellness resources are available there as well, such as those promoting support for stress, anxiety, depression, and substance abuse.

**Class Recordings:** Unauthorized distribution of online class recordings will be prohibited.

**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, when on campus we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program (see www.bert.siu.edu or www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet.)
HELPFUL RESOURCES:
https://www.ruralcenter.org/ (National Rural Health Resource Center)
http://www.raconline.org/topics/agricultural-health-and-safety/organizations (Rural Assistance Center)
http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/ (U.S. DHHS, Rural Health)
http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/resource-centers/ (Veterans Rural Health Resource Centers)
http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/directory/index.html (Director of State Rural Health government offices and private associations)
http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Rural-Health-Clinics-Center.html (Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services/Rural Health Clinics)
http://narhc.org/ (National Association of Rural Health Clinics)
http://www.ruralhealthinc.org/index.html (Rural Health, Inc. – Southern Illinois)
http://iaamrh.org/www/index.html (International Association of Rural Health & Medicine)