Family Law
Law 540
Spring 2014
Room 202
Tue./Thu. 5:00 – 6:15

Professor James E. Hopkins
228 Lesar Law Building
Phone: (618) 997-3170
Fax: (618) 997-7851
e-mail: siufamlaw@gmail.com


There are also reading assignments, a class calendar, and more! -- right ‘chere:

https://www.sites.google.com/site/siufamlawbeta/home

Course Description: An overview of the jurisprudence and practice of family law.

Attendance & Grading: Attendance is required per University and Law School requirements. This class will have a final exam which will constitute 60% of one’s grade; 10% will be based upon written assignments given throughout the semester; 20% will be based on short quizzes, and 10% on class attendance and participation.

Et Cetera: 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.
NOTICE OF RECORDING POLICIES: These class sessions will not be recorded on a routine basis. Students who wish to have a class recorded should make such a request, in which event the entire class will be notified of the date(s) recording will take place.

Class Schedule and Assignments:

January 14  Family law and a historical perspective of its jurisprudence and practice.

ASSIGNMENT: Read pp. 12-38 and the Meyer, Pierce, Prince and Rhodes cases which you can find at https://sites.google.com/site/siufamlawbeta/. Attend class.

“80% of success is just showing up.” – Woody Allen

January 16  Marriage -- Sacrament, Trap, or Otherwise?

ASSIGNMENT: Attend class. Popcorn encouraged.

January 21  Entering Marriage.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Chapter 3. Again with the popcorn.

January 23  Social and economic rights and obligations.

ASSIGNMENT: Read pp. 217-226; 241-244.

January 28  Non-Marital Families.

ASSIGNMENT: Read pp. 259 - 287.

January 30  NO CLASS TODAY

Hooray!

February 4  Establishing Paternity and its Incidents

ASSIGNMENT: Read pp. 288-328.

February 6  Divorce.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Chapter Eight.

“When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because
he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.” Deuteronomy 24:1-2

**February 11** Division of marital property upon dissolution.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Chapter 9.

“I’m an excellent housekeeper. Every time I get divorced, I keep the house.” - Zsa Zsa Gabor

**February 13** Finish discussion of marital property upon dissolution. Popcorn again.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Attend class.

**February 18** Premarital, postnuptial, and separation agreements.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Chapter 14.

**February 20** Finish discussion of Chapter 14.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Again with the Chapter 14. . .

**February 25** Family Law Jurisdiction.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read pp.976-1010.

**February 27** Family Law Jurisdiction.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read pp.1010-1058.

**March 4** Alimony.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Chapter Ten.

**March 6** Child custody.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read pp. 657 - 693.

**March 11** NO CLASS -- SPRING BREAK!!!

**March 13** NO CLASS -- SPRING BREAK!!!
March 18       NO CLASS TODAY!

Hooray!

March 20       Child custody.

ASSIGNMENT: Read pp. 694 - 743.

March 25       Visitation; modification of custody or visitation orders.

ASSIGNMENT: Read pp. 743 - 820.

March 27       Child support; nature and amount of obligation.

ASSIGNMENT: Read pp. 588-623.

April 1        Child support; modification and enforcement of orders.

ASSIGNMENT: Read pp. 623-666.

April 3        Domestic Violence.

ASSIGNMENT: Attend class.

April 8        Family Law Jurisdiction.

ASSIGNMENT: Read pp. 966 -1010.

April 10       Family Law Jurisdiction.

ASSIGNMENT: Read pp.947 - 965.

April 15       NO CLASS TODAY!

April 17       Assisted Reproductive Technology

ASSIGNMENT: Read pp. 1061 - 1113.
April 22     Torts.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Chapter 7.

April 24     Review for final exam.

May 8 @ 1:15 p.m.    FINAL EXAM