Syllabus
Current Developments in American Law:
Crime Victims and Witnesses
Fall 2018

Class sessions: room 103
9:30am-noon, Friday

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

Textbook: I am not requiring any textbook for this class.

What you can expect to learn: This is the first time SIU Law has offered a class on crime victims and witnesses, so we will be pioneers together this semester. It’s a class I have wanted to teach for several years because of my interest in the field and my perception that victims and witnesses are too often left out of the criminal justice process. Together we will explore the rights and responsibilities that victims and witnesses have at the state and national levels. And each of you, in preparing your papers and presentations, will get to delve even more deeply into the topic of your choice in this area. Overall, we will learn about the rights of victims and witnesses in individuals cases, and how statutory and constitutional changes may shape the future. And since the course has an emphasis on writing, you will have the opportunity to write in at least two different formats and sharpen your writing skills in general.

Attendance: Be here, it’s part of what will make this class work. We will have some guest speakers who have great experience to draw from, and we will both present our own work and critique the work of our classmates, so just plan to be here. Class participation will be a part of your grade, so that’s another good reason to come to class. Since the class is a writing seminar, we are allowed to cancel several class sessions in order to devote more time to research and writing. Sweet.

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 we will spend one 150 minute block of time together most weeks. The rules of the school of law allow us to forego several class sessions to allow you more time for research, writing, and
conferences. Overall your reading, research, writing and class sessions should take an average of nine hours each week.

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

- Class participation: 20 percent
- Outline of the first paper: 10 percent
- First paper: 30 percent
- Outline of the second paper: 10 percent
- Second paper: 30 percent

Written assignments must be submitted by D2L or in person directly to me. No late submissions will receive credit unless permission has been granted in advance. Grades will be assigned according to the required curve unless the number of students in the course allows me to deviate from those restrictions.

**Writing Targets:** Students in senior seminars at the School of Law are required to produce a paper or papers totaling 7500 words, which is about 31 pages, double spaced. I am dividing that requirement into two papers so that one paper can be short enough to be published. We’ll talk in class about publications that are good targets for your work.

**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’ll be teaching a class on mediation skills on Thursday at 4, and property on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00, so those are times I won’t be available. Also feel free to schedule an appointment.

**Recording class sessions:** Classes will not be recorded except with advance permission from me in unusual circumstances or to comply with needs for accommodations. No other recording of class is allowed.

**Final exam:** No final exam for this class. Party on!

**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 use 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: 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 a schedule of when we will meet and when we will turn in outlines and papers. Some class sessions will be focused on our research and writing, and others will be split between a class guest and our writing process. I’ll have a more detailed schedule for you when we start the class, along with some notes about our guests. Any changes to the schedule will be posted to D2L.

August 24 Course introduction
Discussion of possible writing topics, locations for publication, and workshop nature of the class

August 31 Presentations on basic resources
1 textbook, 1 article, 1 documentary, 1 work of fiction/movie/art/performance

September 7 Present topic selection to class

September 14 Workshop on research

September 21 Bring outline of first paper to class
September 28  Presentations on 1st paper
October 5   Presentations on 2nd paper
October 12  First paper due at 5pm today. No formal class session, but I will be available, in my office, for last minute questions during class time.
October 19  Present second topic selection to class
October 26  Bring outlines of second paper to class
November 2  Research, writing and conferences (no formal class session)
November 9  Research, writing and conferences (no formal class session)
November 16 Presentations on 2nd paper
November 23 Presentations on 2nd paper
November 30 Second paper due at 5pm today. No formal class session, but I will be available, in my office, for last minute writing questions.