Syllabus

Required Books: Yeazell, Civil Procedure (8th ed. 2012); Student Packet (“SP”)


Suggested Study Aid: Glannon, Civil Procedure: Examples and Explanations (6th ed.)

Office Hours: You may drop in at any time, but the best time is right after class.

Attendance/Preparation: You are permitted up to nine absences. I expect you to come to class familiar with the assigned material. I call on students in alphabetical order, three students per class, so you will know when I will call on you. On these days, I expect extra thorough preparation. If you are going to be absent, you must trade days with someone who will be present on your assigned day. If you fail to get a substitute, forcing someone else to fill in, I will call on you three extra times as a penalty. I expect you to be in your seats at the scheduled start time. If I see a significant number of students regularly arriving late, as I did last semester, I will take corrective measures such as denying latecomers the right to sign the attendance sheet or prohibiting them from entering the classroom. The legal profession expects attorneys to arrive on time for court appearances; you need to develop this habit now.

Consultation: Feel free to ask for help in your outside work during your law school years and after you graduate. All that you will owe me is a phone call or e-mail telling me the final outcome.

Recording: All classes will be recorded and made available for viewing in the Computer Lab. If you must miss class due to illness, a job interview, a moot court competition, or other strong reason, I will let you earn back your absence by viewing the recording and notifying my secretary.

Responsibility: We have a lot of material to read this semester, and I cannot cover all of it in class. I try to have the class work like an appellate argument. You read the assignment (the brief) before coming to class, I cover the main points in a different way than in the reading (the oral argument), and you can ask questions about points that bother you (the court’s questions). At the end of the class, we quit and move on to the next assignment (the next case on the docket). This approach puts a lot of responsibility on you to work on points not covered in class and to have the nerve to ask questions.

TWEN Page: Contains the student packet, syllabus, course announcements, and PowerPoint slides.

Make-Up Classes: The following classes will be made up on the date and time listed below:

Labor Day: make-up on Thursday, September 19, 3:30-4:20 p.m., #108
Judicial Conference (9/18): make-up on Friday, October 11, 9 a.m., #202
Veteran’s Day: make-up on Thursday, November 14, 3:30-4:20 p.m., #108
Personal Jurisdiction Problem: Approximately 10% of your course grade will be based on a personal jurisdiction problem that I will post on TWEN when we have covered enough of the material for you to work on it. You will divide yourselves into two-person law firms to work on this assignment. (Depending on the number of students registered for the course, one law firm might have only one student.) You will draft the motion to dismiss as a law firm, without consulting anyone else. Talking with students outside of your law firm about what you intend to say, or anything else about this assignment violates the rule against consultation and will subject you to punishment under the Ethics Code. Your law firm will file the complaint with my secretary by noon on Friday, September 27th.

First Exam: Approximately 35% of your course grade will be based on an exam given on Friday, October 4, between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (There will be no class on Thursday, October 3.) The exam will cover the material listed through Class 19 on the Tentative Schedule. The exam will include both essay questions and multiple-choice questions. The exam will be open book and open note. You can bring anything including a commercial outline or your own outline.

Final Exam: Approximately 55% of your grade will be based on a final exam given at the regularly scheduled final exam time, December 12, at 8:15 a.m. The exam will cover the material starting with Class 21 on the Tentative Schedule. The exam will include both essay questions and multiple choice questions. The exam will be open book and open note. You can bring anything including a commercial outline or your own outline.

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.
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