

LAW 609 - 003: CANNABIS LAW  
Syllabus, Fall 2025  
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

Daniel A. Silver, J.D.

Course Location: ZOOM

University Office Hours: Liberal availability; call, text, or email instructor: MW 3:30 – 5:30

Cell: 618-924-0580; e-mail: [dsilver@siu.edu](mailto:dsilver@siu.edu)

Class Time: 4:30 – 5:45 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays

### **ZOOM Classes:**

With ZOOM, we will all meet online, with remote audio and video real-time interactions. It is pretty simple. You will start by getting on the internet from a computer **with a camera**. The computer you use must have a camera. **ALWAYS sign in at least five minutes before class starts.**

Once in the course on D2L or by this syllabus, click on this ZOOM link [CTRL left click on a PC], <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84775321051?pwd=jgtfA0u17LXjrbXQhmZMpaoyc4Ki94.1>, and join the ZOOM Meeting for LAW 609. The following rules apply to all students:

**Each student must leave their camera on** throughout the class. **Leave your microphone set to mute.** When you speak to join in on your own or in response to questions, **simply choose the Mic icon**, and we will hear you.

Students who do not have a personal computer, or otherwise ready access to a personal computer with a camera, may use a pc with a camera in Wham 210A or a mac with a camera in Wham 210B or in Room 9 of the Communications Building. There is also Morris Library and the first floor Faner. If you take advantage of this option, **please remember to position yourselves with social distancing safety in mind.**

If you want to do a test run, email me at [dsilver@siu.edu](mailto:dsilver@siu.edu) to make arrangements. Test runs are recommended. All assignments, handouts, and exams will continue to be run through D2L.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

There is no text for this course.

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Prompt Class Attendance
2. Read and understand the assigned material prior to each class
3. To ask questions
4. To participate in class
5. To complete all assignments and turn in each when due
6. To do your own work, even when working with others
7. To schedule and devote at least six hours of work time each week on LAW 609
8. To have ready access to a computer with a camera, and to save everything in a cloud
9. Students are expected to exhibit professionalism, patience, and respect at all times
10. Students are to carefully follow instructions
11. **Students must use Microsoft Word for all assignments.** If a student does not already have Microsoft Word on their computers, SIU provides a free download at <https://portal.office.com/account#installs>.
12. Review both the university syllabus attachment and Simmons Law School syllabus attachment
13. Do not use generative AI on assignments
14. Students seeking an excused absence must do so through the Associate Dean; professors may not grant a student an excused absence or permit absences additional to what are permitted.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with the fundamentals of cannabis law, focusing on Illinois law, and we will cover, as well, the impact of federal law and developments in other states. We will cover hemp and marijuana and related commercial and criminal law. There may be speakers who are professional legal practitioners or engaged in commercial production or dispensing. Skills and knowledge will be developed through participation in class, exercises, and assignments. The course will invariably include contract law, business law, bankruptcy law, commercial law, environmental law, constitutional law, intellectual property, real estate law, and criminal law. Professional and ethical responsibilities are stressed throughout the course.

## ESSENTIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to implement inquiry, critical reasoning, and analytical skills concerning substantive and procedural law.

Students will be able to evidence comprehension of Illinois and federal statutory and common laws and their interplays with each other and their impacts on the cultivation, production, distribution, and use of a wide range of cannabis and cannabis-related products.

Students will be able to understand how to implement the tenets encompassing social equity within the cannabis industry, including, but not limited to, professional identity, bias, cross-cultural competency, and anti-racism.

Students will be able to identify legal distinctions among various states' laws and federal laws between marijuana and hemp and their respective impacts on our lives.

Students will be able to demonstrate awareness of the purposes inherent in their writing tasks through independent research and writing while adhering to comprehension of the totality of instructions.

Students will be able to write using proper grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, format, readability, and style.

## METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Midterm Exam (PowerPoints and Class Lectures)	100 points
Final Exam (PowerPoints and Class Lectures)	100 points
Class Participation Overall	10 points
Homework Assignments	<u>120 points</u>
Total	330 points

A+	(320-330)	B+	(287-296)	C+	(254-263)	D+	(221-230)
A	(307-319)	B	(274-286)	C	(241-253)	D	(208-220)
A-	(297-306)	B-	(264-273)	C-	(231-240)	D-	(198-207)

Total points may vary if, at the instructor's discretion, additional assignments or exercises are added or reduced by instructor. Points or fractions of points may be deducted or added, at the instructor's discretion, on the basis of class attendance, preparation, participation, and performance. The Syllabus may be supplemented by announcements made in class. It is **your** obligation to be informed about all announcements.

## SUPPLEMENTAL ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken each class period. When you are in class, make every effort to be alert and engaged. Although an occasional absence may be unavoidable, it in no way excuses a student from meeting all requirements of the course and being responsible for all learning experiences. **Students will be required to complete any assignments missed during their absence(s).**

Timeliness is essential for legal professionals. We are always working under deadlines. Students who are habitually late or who habitually leave early risk having their grades adjusted down at the instructor's discretion. **Tardiness disrupts class and is rude.** This is especially true if there is a speaker and you come late; in such event, enter with the greatest respect you can muster.

#### **D2L/EMAIL:**

Assignments **must** be turned in on time, no later than the specified deadline, and **turned in through D2L**. If you know you are going to be absent from class, you should still submit your homework as directed through D2L. In all events, assignments must arrive before the scheduled deadline and properly formatted as either .rtf, or Word, with proper punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure.

If you have not already done so, set up your computer to save all of your work to the cloud. There are a variety of options for this, including, but not limited to, dropbox.com and Google Docs. Your assignments will be weighted by your capacity to follow instructions. Students **MUST** check SIU emails every day. This is a course requirement.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated! Simply put, you must do your own work. Practicing the process is a large part of why you are here. When in your writings you use what others have to say and want to use their ideas either quoted word-for-word or put into your own words, you **must** give them credit in your use of their ideas. You do this using proper Bluebook citations of these sources and resources. If you have any confusion or concern about whether or not you are about to engage in any activity that you believe might cross the line into academic dishonesty, please do not hesitate to contact me at [dsilver@siu.edu](mailto:dsilver@siu.edu) and ask.

**Please keep copies of each and every writing assignment you do for this and for your other classes.** Save everything, preferably in the cloud, but if not, on an exterior drive that is a backup. You may also email all entirely-completed assignments to yourself, so that you will always be able to access them, even in the distant future. All writing assignments should be completed in 10 or 12 pitch, Times New Roman, Aptos, or Courier, and submitted as a Microsoft Word or .rtf format, not .pdf, unless otherwise instructed. When submitting each assignment, use the following format for naming your submissions (your last name followed by the assignment name): (i.e.: Silver Bluebook Assignment One).

#### **CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS: [Check D2L regularly for postings.]**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
08/18	Introduction to course; Cannabis Basics
08/20	Contemporary Cannabis Basics
08/25	Cultivation Centers Formations
08/27	Cultivation Centers Formations
09/01	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY. While there is no class meeting on Labor Day, we are required to make up the minutes missed. To that end, each student must read the <u>Sirois v. United States</u> Petition for Writ of Certiorari (posted in Handouts on D2L) before next Monday's class. Be prepared to discuss the issues, the differences between strict compliance and substantial compliance, and your take on the Rohrabacher-Farr Amendment.
09/03	Licensing Cultivation Centers
09/08	Licensing Cultivation Centers
09/10	Opening Cultivation Centers

09/15	Opening and Operating Cultivation Centers
09/17	Operating Cultivation Centers; Begin Hemp History
09/22	Operating Cultivation Centers; Begin Hemp History
09/24	Industrial Hemp History
09/29	<b>Exam One</b>
10/01	Industrial Hemp Options and Alternatives
10/06	Hemp Processing; Craft Growers
10/08	Craft Growers
10/13	Social Equity
10/15	Infuser Organizations
10/20	Employment
10/22	Criminal/Civil Laws/Penalties
10/27	Criminal/Civil Laws/Penalties; Paraphernalia
10/29	Paraphernalia
11/03	Criminal/Civil Laws/Penalties
11/05	Expungement and Sealing
11/10	Dispensing Organizations; Licensing and Registration
11/12	Bankruptcy
11/17	Dispensing Organizations; Advertising; Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis
11/19	Dispensing Organizations; Transporting Organizations
11/24	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS
11/26	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS
12/01	Law School READING DAY – NO CLASS
12/	<b>Exam Three</b>

*\* The Syllabus Calendar of Assignments described above is subject to change by Lecturer.*

*\*\* Students are responsible for all reading materials and all information presented in class including lectures by the instructor and guest speakers.*

*\*\*Announcements made in class will prevail over deadlines contained in the Syllabus.*