

Syllabus  
**Property I**  
Fall 2025

**Class sessions:** room 120 – the auditorium (but stay tuned – that might change)  
3:00pm to 4:15pm, Mondays and Wednesdays

**Teacher:** Sheila Simon

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**Textbook:** Hey, here's a treat – we're using an open-source textbook. It's free and you have access to it through our D2L page. You can go fully electronic or print your own hard copy. Me, I'd print the hard copy, but then I'm close to 5 million years old.

**What you can expect to learn:** This class is the first semester of a year-long course, a course that is taught to just about every first-year law student in the United States. In this semester we'll start by learning about what it means to own things, including things that are intangible. Then we'll look at owning land and the rights that come with that ownership. Then we'll look at dividing ownership over time. By the end of the semester we'll get to some seriously useful stuff – landlord/tenant law. Some of this will seem space-alien weird, and some absurdly ancient. But it's all important to knowing how to help people, and to passing the bar.

And you will learn more than just the law of property. You will learn to identify sources of law, analyze statutes and cases, apply law to new facts, and explain what you have learned to others. Along with your other first year classes, this class will help form the foundation of your professional service to your clients and your community.

**Attendance:** Be here. Be a part of class. I work hard to make sure class time is valuable to you. And if you miss more than six classes, you will not be allowed to take the final. But plan to do more than just attend class. Plan to be engaged in each class. The more you are actively engaged, the more you will be able to retain and use the law that we study.

One way that all students will be able to participate in class is by being one of the daily note-takers for class. Your notes will be shared with the rest of the class, and you will get to provide a quick recap of the class in the following class session.

**Workload expectations:** You might not have thought about how much work you will put into each class, but the American Bar Association has! 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 that we will spend two 65 minute blocks of time together each week. The amount of assigned reading and out of class preparation should take you around three hours for each class session and six hours for the week. If the math is getting hard, plan on spending at least nine hours per week (three in class and six preparing for class) on course-related work. Sometimes it will take more, and sometimes it will just feel like more – but it’s worth it.

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

A quick oral quiz	5 points
One writing assignment	10 points
A mid-term exam	25 points
A final exam	60 points.

At the end of the course I will add your points for the semester and apply the required average and required curve for a first-year class to calculate your grade for the course.

**D2L:** Keep posted on news, assignments, any changes in the syllabus and other good stuff through D2L.

**Office hours:** Nerd alert - I am at the law school a lot. Stop by any time to say hello and convince yourself that you can actually talk with a professor. Or email me with a question. Or call me. Or text me. Really. I particularly want you to be able to tell me when you don't understand something. You don't need an appointment, but if it helps you to schedule yourself, make an appointment. This semester in addition to our class, I have a class on Thursdays at 4:30. All others times, just stop by.

**Recording class sessions:** Classes will be recorded and posted. The recordings work most, but not all, of the time, and the sound quality is pretty low. If you know you are going to have to miss a class, have a friend take notes for you.

**Final exam:** All final exams will be held between December 2 and December 12.

**Stress!** The University and the School of Law recognize that there are lots of potential stressors in your life. Here is some information on Saluki Cares, 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) 453-2461, or siucares@siu.edu, <https://salukicare.siu.edu/>. Associate Dean Angela Upchurch is available at the School of Law to help students access university resources. Please email her at [aupchurch@siu.edu](mailto:aupchurch@siu.edu) or call her at 618 563-8314.

**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: SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. The Office of Access and Accommodations coordinates the implementation of accommodations. If you think you may be eligible for accommodations but have not yet obtained approval, please contact OAA immediately at 618-453-5738 or <https://access.siu.edu>. You may request accommodations at any time, but timely requests help to ensure accommodations are in place when needed. Accommodations and services are determined through an interactive process with students and may involve consideration of specific course design and learning objectives in consultation with faculty.

**Tornado? Flood?** We ask that you become familiar with Emergency Preparedness @ SIU. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, on the <https://emergency.siu.edu>, and through text and email alerts. To register for alerts, visit <http://emergency.siu.edu>.

#### **Tentative schedule:**

This is the target schedule for the semester. I expect it will change some over the course of the semester. As those changes are made, I will post the revised schedule on D2L. For each class day I have noted a summary of the topic, the reading assignment from our text, and a musical reference that has almost no educational purpose. ☺

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|-------------|---|
| August 18   | <b>Owning a thing</b> read pages 1-10. Song of the day: What Does the Fox Say, Ylvis.   |
| August 20   | <b>Other ways to decide who owns a thing</b> pages 11-28. Centerfield, John Fogerty   |
| August 25   | <b>What about stuff that is on or in land?</b> pages 29-44. Just around the Riverbend, from Pocahontas<br>Oral quizzes all this week – oh yeah! |
| August 27   | <b>Let's get fugacious!</b> Pages 45-61. Keep it Flowing, The Isley Brothers  |
| September 1 | no class Labor day – assignment posted on D2L   |
| September 3 | <b>Gifts!</b> pages 62-81. Simple Gifts, Shaker song  |

September 8 **Umm, can I take that gift back?** pages 81-102. She'll Return It, the Animals

September 10 **Found or stolen stuff** pages 102-126. Stolen, Dashboard Confessional

September 15 **But I thought and acted like it was mine!** pages 127-145. Borrowed, LeAnn Rimes

September 17 **Owning people and parts of people** pages 146-186. I Use My Body, Chester More Power

September 22 **Intangible property** pages 199-225. U Can't Touch This, M.C Hammer

September 24 **And more intangibles** pages 225-247. Out of Touch, Hall and Oates

September 29 **Land – at last!** pages 248-262. Landed, Ben Folds

October 1 **Beyond the right to exclude** pages 262-282. If I Can't Sell It, I'll Keep Sittin' On It, Big Mama Thornton

October 6-10 No classes this week -- MidTermFest!

October 13 exam review

October 15 **Property torts and crimes** pages 283-290. Trespassing, Adam Lambert

October 20 **Adverse possession** pages 291-317. Should I Stay or Should I Go, The Clash

October 22 **Estates and Future Interests** pages 318-341. Unforgettable, French Montana. Introduction of writing assignment. Special guest in class, Professor Dale Aschemann.

October 27 **And it gets really ugly** 342-374. Problem, Ariana Grande. Focus on being able to solve the problems.

October 29 **Leasing** pages 375-390. Lease on Life, Andy Grammer

November 3 **Picking a tenant** pages 390-404. Foggy Mountain Breakdown, Earl Scruggs (lots of picking)

November 5 **Let's get out of this lease** pages 404-420. Leave, JoJo

November 10 **Fighting to stay out or in** pages 420-439. Stay, The Kid LAROI

November 12 **This is not what we agreed on** pages 440-460. Just Dropped In (To See What Condition my Condition Was In), The First Edition

November 17 **A good reason for eviction?** Pages 460-476. Give me One Reason, Tracy Chapman

November 19 bonus day – catch up as needed or review

November 22- 30 Thanksgiving break – oh yeah!

December 3 through 13 - finals weeks