

Seminar: Slavery, Race and Law in Southern Illinois
Fall, 2021

Class sessions: room 164
Fridays, 9:30 - noon

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Textbook: There is no required textbook for this class.

What you can expect to learn: In this seminar we will have the chance to look at Southern Illinois law and history on slavery and race. These topics are rarely studied, partly because we are not in a major population center and partly because the topics are uncomfortable. As lawyers we should understand the law, but it's sure hard to do that without an understanding of where we have been. In this seminar you will get to choose your area of research, develop your expertise, write to deepen your understanding, choose a way to share what you have learned, and, I hope, have an impact.

This is a seminar, which is an amazing opportunity for us to work together. I'll provide the structure and the basics, and you get to choose the direction for your research, writing, and presentations to the class. Bottom line -- you will get to dig into an area of law that is interesting to you, polish your research and writing skills, and try to take it outside of school and have an impact. Yessss!

Attendance: Be here – it's a huge part of what will make this class work. Class participation will be a part of your grade, so that's another good reason to come to class. Virus permitting, we will be going to some of the places we will be studying. Classes are on Friday mornings, although we will have some class days off to give you time for research, writing, and conferences.

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 two 75 minute blocks 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
First draft of the second product	10 percent
Final draft of second product	30 percent

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. Because of the small class size, final grades will be assigned according to the more flexible curve for smaller classes, and grade distribution rules do not apply.

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. In our class the large paper will be due early in the semester. That will allow you time to produce a second work which is targeted for publication in some fashion. We'll talk in class about publications that are good targets for your work, but you will not be limited to writing for the second work product.

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

Office hours: I am a total nerd and spend a lot of time in the office, so stop by any time. Also feel free to schedule an appointment. We can meet in my office, outside, online, or by phone. I won't let the virus keep us from having consistent conversation about your topics and your writing. My property class is on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, but outside of that, I'm yours.

Recording class sessions: All class sessions held here at the law school will be recorded and posted. My experience with the recordings is that they work most of the time. So if you have to miss something that you really want to benefit from, have a classmate take notes.

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

Stress! What 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) 453-5714, or siucares@siu.edu, <http://salukicare.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: SIU Carbondale

is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. Disability Support Services coordinates the implementation of accommodations. If you think you may be eligible for accommodations but have not yet obtained approval please contact DSS immediately at 618-453-5738 or disabilityservices.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. Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreements for each course to the School of Law Registrar's Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations. Accommodation [request](#) and [renewal](#) forms can be found here.

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 Emergency Preparedness @ SIU website, and through text and email alerts. To register for alerts, visit: <https://emergency.siu.edu/>

Tentative schedule:

This is a schedule of when we will meet and when we will turn in outlines and papers. We have plenty of flexibility on other days – a good thing in a time of virus. Five of our classes will be visits to locations outside of the law school. Any changes to the schedule will be posted to D2L.

August 20: introduction to class, discussion of possible research topics

August 27: research

September 3: Equality, Illinois

September 10: Cairo, Illinois, outline of paper due at 5pm today

September 17: no class – reserved for research and writing time

September 24: Thebes, Illinois

October 1: no class – reserved for research and writing time

October 8: presentations on first paper

October 15: Presentations of first paper, continued

October 20: not a class day, papers due by 5pm today

October 22: Murphysboro

October 29: Carbondale, draft of second work product due today at 5pm.

November 5: presentations of second work product

November 12: presentations of second work product

November 19: no class, time reserved for last minute questions, second work product due at 5pm today