

**Syllabus**  
**Mastering Legal Education, Section 4**  
**Sheila Simon**  
**Fall, 2023**

**Professor:**

Sheila Simon, [ssimon@siu.edu](mailto:ssimon@siu.edu)  
Room 250, but soon moving to room 228!  
618 967-2062 (cell)

**Administrative Assistant:**

Cynthia Heisner, [heisner@siu.edu](mailto:heisner@siu.edu)

**Class Sessions:**

Room 206  
Fridays 10:30 to 11:20  
(but only for the first half of the semester)

This class will be *Totally Different!*

Sure, it will be familiar faces, and just one room down the hall from our writing class, but guaranteed, this class will be different.

**What you can expect to learn:** In this class we will certainly learn about law, but the focus will be on how we learn. There are some ways that learning law is like learning you have already done, but some of this will be different. Maybe the biggest difference will be the quantity of learning that is expected. I recognize that each of us learns differently, but there are a few things that may be helpful to many of you, like learning to:

- schedule yourself
- approach a challenge
- prepare for class AND work after the class
- organize what you learn to solve a problem
- make feedback work for you
- outline what you are learning in class
- answer essay questions
- answer multiple choice questions
- think about your career options
- work with a study group

**Required texts:** Ha – trick topic! No texts are required for this class.

**Attendance:** No tricks here. Be here and be ready to participate. Be ready to help steer the class to meet your needs.

**Office hours:** You know the drill here already. Stop by my office any time, no appointment is necessary. If it works better for you to make an appointment in advance, do it. You can also email me or call me on my cell, 618 967-2062 (but remember that I go to bed earlier than you do). There is no limit on the number of questions you can ask or how often you can stop by, email, or phone.

**Assignments:** The assignments in this class will all be directed toward giving you the tools you need to make the most of your education here. Working on the assignments will give you a chance to test drive some really good practices and find which ones fit you best.

**Grades:** Plot twist! This class will be graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. To determine where you fall, I will take into account your attendance, your participation in class, your participation in your assigned study group, timely submission of assignments, and participation in required meetings.

**Deadlines:** According to Miriam-Webster, the word deadline comes from a line drawn around a prison, and if prisoners went beyond it, they would be shot. Nobody will be shot in this class, but deadlines are indeed serious. In this class deadlines will be extended only with prior approval.

**Plagiarism:** Your writing must be your own, and when you use ideas of others you must give credit to the others through appropriate citation. Plagiarizing the work of another, including use of generative AI, in whole or in part, is a violation of the Honor Code and can lead to penalties including expulsion. This rule applies to each assignment, including drafts or parts of any document you turn in.

We'll talk about this more in class, and you can always ask questions. Don't let this trip you up.

**Recording class sessions:** To maximize your opportunities, our classes will be recorded and posted on D2L. Being in class is really the best way to get it done. Also the recording quality stinks.

**Workload expectations:** Even an ungraded course takes work. 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 one-half credit hour class, and we'll meet for an hour each week for the first half of the

semester. The amount of assigned reading and out of class preparation should take you around two hours for each class session. After the first half of the semester we may continue to meet, but on an individual basis, depending on your needs.

**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](mailto:siucares@siu.edu), <https://salukicare.siu.edu/>. Assistant Dean Judi Ray is available at the School of Law to help students access university resources. Please email her at [judiray@siu.edu](mailto:judiray@siu.edu), or call 618- 453-8135.

**Disabilities and accommodations:** Let's talk about disabilities. In fact, we'll talk about disabilities in class. 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](http://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.

**Tornado much?** 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 <http://emergency.siu.edu/>.

**Course schedule:** Here's the schedule of topics for the course. For most of the classes I will post an assignment of something to read, contemplate or surf. Where I can, the topic will focus on connecting these ideas to the classes you are in this semester.

August 25 study schedule



September 1 briefing a case for class



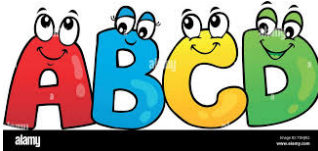
September 8 CRAC across the curriculum



September 15 outlining



September 22 multiple choice questions



September 29 essay questions



October 6 individual conferences with me instead of class



October 20 individual conferences with me to review mid-terms  
One picture of me is surely enough!