

Syllabus
Property I, Section 1
Fall 2024

Class sessions: room 204
3:00pm – 4:15pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Teacher: Sheila Simon
Offices: room 228, and room 135 in the administrative suite on the first floor
Email: ssimon@siu.edu
Office phone 618 536-8321
Cell phone 618 967-2062

Faculty Support: Cynthia Heisner. heisner@siu.edu
Teaching Assistant: Jacob Monday, jacob.monday@siu.edu

Textbook: The book for this class is Open Source Property, and the whole darned thing is on our D2L page, free! Additional readings may be posted to the course's D2L page.

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 you will learn what kinds of property there are, how people can get that property, and some ways the property can be taken away. That sounds pretty vague, right? To be more specific, you will learn to identify the kind of interest someone has in property, how that interest can be transferred to someone else, and what kind of challenges are posed when the package of property rights is split between different people. Some of this will seem like space alien stuff, and some of it, like landlord/tenant law, will be more familiar.

And you will learn more than just the law of property. You'll get to see justice in action, and plenty of injustice too. 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 and outline of the day 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 short paper	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: I am a super nerd and I'm actually at school a lot, either in my upstairs office or down in the administrative area. 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 want to get 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.

Recording class sessions: Classes will be recorded and posted. The recordings work most, but not all, of the time. 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 from December 3 to December 13.

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/>, or ask me.

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. Please send approved accommodations to your faculty through the DSS online portal.

Safety Awareness: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://safe.siu.edu>

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 <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 syllabus 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. ☺

August 20 Introduction to Property – 3-12
 Queen of my Double Wide Trailer, Sammy Kershaw

- August 22 Subject Matter of Property – 13-28
Love Theory, Kirk Franklin
Sign up for oral quizzes
- August 27 Types of Property – 29-47
Oral quizzes this week
- August 29 Findings – 48-76
Finders Keepers, Mabel
- September 3 Allocation – 77-96
Mine, Beyonce
- September 5 Resources – 97-120
Stay in One Place, Real Friends
- September 10 Finders and Stealers – 120-134
Steal Away, Jimmy Hughes
- September 12 More Finders and Stealers – 134-156
Steal Away, Robbie Dupree
- September 17 Adverse Possession – 157-189
Take it Easy, the Eagles
- September 19 Adverse Possession of Chattels – 190- 202
Don't Take My Stuff, Avengers soundtrack
- September 24 Bailments & Liens – 203-224
Lean on Me, Bill Withers
- September 26 IP Part 1 – 225-251
Get an Idea, Kenny Mason
- October 1 IP Part 2 – 251-268
Protect Me, New Kingston
- October 3 IP Part 3 – 268-281
You Heard it Here First, Walker Montgomery
- Oct. 8 & 10 No classes this week – Midterms.

- October 15 Estates – 282-298
Buy Dirt, Jordan Davis
- October 17 Estates II – 298-321
This Land is Your Land, Woodie Guthrie
- October 23 Future Interests – 322-342
Time Warp, Richard O'Brien
- October 24 Marketability – 343-357
Cottage for Sale, Willie Nelson
- October 29 Easements– 358-388
Ease on Down the Road, Diana Ross and Michael Jackson
- October 31 Trusts and Corporations – 389-405
Tested, Approved and Trusted, Burna Boy
- November 5 Co-Ownership – 406-434
Get it Together, Drake
- November 7 Joint Tenancy – 434-450
All the Cats Join In, Peggy Lee
- November 12 Marital Interests – 450-467
D-I-V-O-R-C-E, Tammy Wynette
- November 14 Leasing – 467-497
Lease on Life, Andy Grammer
- November 20 Tenant Defaults – 497-533
Default, Django Django
- November 22 Landlord's (and Tenant's) Duties – 533-569
Do Your Duty, Bessie Smith
- November 26 & 28 No Class - Thanksgiving
- December 3 through December 13 - finals weeks