

SENIOR WRITING SEMINAR: LEGAL HISTORY (LAW 590-3)
SPRING 2020 SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Douglas Lind (dlind@siu.edu)

CLASSROOM AND MEETING TIME: Room 167, Tues/Thurs 1:30-2:45 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This three-credit course provides students with a broad understanding of the history of the production, distribution and reception of legal information, from Magna Carta to today.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The lecture portion of this course focuses on the study of physical objects and their importance in the study and research of legal history. Research and writing skills will be honed during hands-on exercises, writing assignments and in-class reporting. Upon completion of the course will have broader knowledge and understanding of historical legal texts. Finally, as a writing seminar, students will learn advanced research, writing, citation, and legal analysis skills, culminating in a substantial independent research paper, an annotated bibliography, and a brief bio-bibliography.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: None (reading as assigned); Bluebook Citation Manual highly recommended but not required.

OFFICE HOURS: In person meetings by appointment, but walk in meetings always welcome when available.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PREPARATION: Students may miss up to four 75 minute in person classes in the semester. Absences in excess of that number will result in sanctions and possible dismissal from the course, in consultation with the Associate Dean. There is no excused or unexcused absence policy at SIU, but absences may impact the class participation mark. Small seminars only function well when all students are prepared and willing to participate. If a student is substantially unprepared for class, the student may be counted as absent. Class preparation is based on completion of the syllabus assignments and any other assignments communicated in advance by the instructor, and academic preparedness and effort.

GRADING POLICIES:

- Written Assignments (totaling 7500 words):
 - Biography (counts toward total word count – appx. 5 pages)
 - Bibliography (counts toward total word count)
 - Draft paper outline
 - Independent Legal Research Paper (85% of course grade) (counts toward total word count - appx. 10-15 pages)
- Class Participation (15% of course grade)
- Assignments are not graded anonymously in this course in order to provide the most direct writing feedback
- This course is graded on the SIU Law curve for upper division courses dependent on enrollment
- There will be mandatory individual meetings to review early drafts
- Late submissions are subject to a penalty for each full day or portion of a day late

SENIOR WRITING COURSE CREDIT: This course satisfies the Senior Writing course graduation requirement. School of Law Rule IV.5(a) states that “the purpose of the senior writing requirement is to further refine students’ skills in legal research, legal writing, and legal analysis in a course that requires substantial legal research and an advanced legal writing project involving significant, sophisticated legal analysis and research.”

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

If you have any questions about emergency procedures, please contact Judi Ray (judiray@siu.edu).

DISABILITY POLICY:

Disability Support Services provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. <http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/>. Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreement to the School of Law Registrar's Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations.

SALUKI CARES.

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 618-453-3135.

NOTICE OF RECORDING POLICIES:

SIU School of Law no longer records classes automatically. Please do not record class sessions for this course. If you have a reason to do so, please talk to me in advance of class so we can discuss it. I need at least a week's notice to approve and plan an exception to my policy of non-recording. Please note that the audio and video recording of classes by students themselves (as opposed to recording by the IT Department) is an Honor Code violation when the instructor has prohibited either action [Honor Code I.E.1.g].

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan. 14 (T) – Introduction, hands-on exercise

Jan. 16 (Th) – Control of and access to legal information

Jan. 21 (T) – Magna Carta and English law

Jan. 23 (Th) – English law continued, American law publishing, biographies assigned

Jan. 28 (T) – Legal history research techniques (basic) and intro to topic selection

Jan. 30 (Th) – No Class

Feb. 4 (T) – Biographies due, in-class discussion

Feb. 6 (Th) – Topic selection

Feb. 11 (T) – Research techniques and bibliographies

Feb. 13 (Th) – Topics in legal history

Feb. 18 (T) – Topics in legal history

Feb. 20 (Th) – No class

Feb. 25 (T) – In-class student reporting on topics and progress

Feb. 27 (Th) – Topics in legal history

March 3 (T) – No class. Midterm week

March 5 (Th) – No class. Midterm week, bibliographies due

March 10 (T) – SPRING BREAK

March 12 (Th) – SPRING BREAK

March 17 (T) – Research and writing techniques

March 20 (Th) – No class, outlines due

March 24 (T) – Research and writing techniques

March 26 (Th) – Student presentations

March 31 (T) – Student presentations

April 2 (Th) – Final class, students will continue to have regular meetings with Lind

???? – Research paper is due at 5:00 pm via email.