

Law 589: Mediation Skills – Spring 2026
Southern Illinois University School of Law
Syllabus

Professor: Missy Greathouse (She/Her)
Cell/Text: (618) 910 – 1071
Email: missy.curran@siu.edu
Office hours: *By appointment.*

Class Location: ZOOM – [CLICK HERE](#) or Join from the calendar on D2L
Day and Time: Wednesdays 4:30 – 7:00 PM

**PLEASE NOTE: When entering the Zoom classroom, you will be placed into a waiting room. I will not admit you to the main room until you have your first and last name listed.*

Name & Pronouns:

I will gladly honor your request to address you by your chosen name and/or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this at any point in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. If I accidentally use an incorrect gender pronoun when addressing you, please feel free to let me know, in whatever manner makes you comfortable, what pronouns you use so that I can make every effort to correct that error. If you are comfortable including your pronouns in your Zoom name, please do so to ensure I, and your fellow colleagues, can address you using the correct pronouns. I include my pronouns in my Zoom name to encourage students to do the same.

Course Description:

This is a skills-based course that will cover theories and techniques used in mediation from the mediator's perspective, using readings, discussions and simulation exercises designed to illustrate theories and techniques of mediation. Skills developed will include passive and active listening, questioning, problem solving, maintaining neutrality, negotiation techniques, and exercising professional judgment. There will also be writing assignments, opportunities to observe mediations, and discussion about the ethical issues faced by mediators.

This class focuses on theory, skills, rules, and laws related to mediation, the dynamics of different types of mediation, and practical situations that occur during mediations. In teaching this course, my goal is to help you understand theories of mediation and develop and improve basic skills to mediate in an ethical and effective manner.

Course Goals:

1. To increase your understanding of mediation as a form of an appropriate dispute resolution method;
2. To increase awareness of implicit bias issues faced in the mediation field;
3. To increase your awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of mediation and knowledge of how to counsel clients in mediation; and

4. To increase your knowledge of basic tools and skills used by mediators you may encounter in your practice.

Course Materials:

Required:

1. Mediation in a Nutshell (3rd Ed.), by Kimberlee K. Kovach
2. Other materials handed out throughout the semester.

COURSE EVALUATION POLICY

Evaluation:

This is a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (Pass/Fail) course. To receive a passing grade, you must read and be ready to discuss all assigned materials before each class, satisfactorily complete homework in a timely manner, actively participate in class exercises, including providing feedback to other students, and satisfactorily complete all projects and assignments. Although you will not receive a final numerical grade, you will receive points for attendance, class participation and assignments. You must receive at least 65% of the available points to pass.

Because this class is meant to help you develop practical skills, it will involve participation in class discussions and simulations. Your level of classroom participation (as participant and provider of feedback) will be significant factors in determining whether you receive a passing grade.

Course Grading:

Your grade will be determined as follows, and is further outlined below:

- 25% (25 points) – Attendance, preparation, and participation
- 25% (25 points) – Response to D2L Posts and Required Written Assignments
- 10% (10 points) – Attend a Mediation and Write a Reflection
- 15% (15 points) – Midterm – Writing Across the Curriculum Assignment
- 25% (25 points) – Final Exam – Multiple Choice

Total: 100%/100 points

25% (25 points) – Attendance, preparation, and participation

Class Attendance:

The American Bar Association, the accrediting body of the Law School, requires regular and punctual class attendance. Failure to attend class regularly and punctually may be considered grounds for refusal to allow a student to continue in a class, to submit a final project, or to take an examination, all of which will result in a grade of “WF” (withdrawal failing).

Sometimes students have to miss class for Law School activities, such as moot court. In light of the limited number of class meetings in this course, and in the interests of fairness

to all students, if you miss class for such an activity, you will receive a regular absence. Therefore, as will be necessary in practice, you should plan accordingly in advance to the extent possible.

Students are expected to attend every class and be on time.
Absent extraordinary circumstances, students who miss three (3) or more classes will not receive a Satisfactory Passing Grade.

Class Preparation and Participation:

Each class session counts towards your participation. If you are going to miss class, please attempt to give me notice before class. You may notify me of an absence via phone or e-mail. Students should come to class prepared to discuss all of the assigned reading and to participate actively in the simulations. Students are expected to volunteer in class but may be called on if there are no volunteers. **The *quality*, not *quantity*, of class participation is important.** If students are not prepared to participate in class discussion meaningfully and substantively, I may consider that student absent from class.

You will have the opportunity to mediate, represent clients, be clients, and serve as observer in role-plays throughout the semester. Please get into the roles, prepare when appropriate, and take the exercises seriously. Role-plays present an opportunity to experience the process, test skills and their application, and receive valuable feedback. During these exercises, you may not communicate with any students other than the ones with whom you are doing the exercise. You must be especially careful not to overhear other students doing the same exercise. For Honor Code purposes and otherwise, the exercises in this course are the equivalent of exams in other law school courses.

Also, you might be interested to know that the ABA standards incorporate out-of-class work in calculating credit hours. Under the ABA standards, **you should expect to spend 150 minutes per week in class (2.5 hours), plus (a minimum of) six hours of study a week, for a total of 8.5 hours per week.**

Please note that your consistent participation in exercises, class discussions, and role plays will factor significantly into your participation grade.

25% (25 points) – Response to D2L Posts and Required Written Assignments

Responses to D2L Posts and Required Written Assignments:

We will use D2L to communicate throughout the semester. At times I will post a question, and you will be required to respond to the post prior to the next class session. I will ensure you are informed about a D2L post via email and/or in class, when appropriate. Additionally, you will be required to do several small written assignments throughout the semester. I will ensure due dates and guidelines are clearly shared via D2L, email, and/or in class. You will receive 0 points for anything not submitted by the deadline.

10% (10 points) – Attend a Mediation and Write a Reflection

Attend a Mediation and Write a Reflection:

You will be required to attend a mediation during this course. I will assist in connecting you with a mediator to observe. Once you have observed the mediation, you will write a reflection on the mediation process and experience. Guidelines for the reflection will be shared prior to any mediation observations. Please note, you will be asked to share with the class your experience observing the mediation.

15% (15 points) – Midterm – Writing Across the Curriculum Assignment

Midterm – Writing Across the Curriculum Assignment:

Students will be required to complete a writing across the curriculum assignment, which will serve as our midterm. More information will be provided closer to midterms.

25% (25 points) – Final Exam – Multiple Choice

Final Exam – Multiple Choice:

Your final exam will be a multiple-choice exam covering topics discussed throughout the semester. This format is to ensure to provide you the opportunity to practice this much needed skill in preparation to sit for the Bar Exam. More information will be provided closer to finals.

BAN ON COLLABORATION

You are not allowed to obtain help from any other person (including any other student) or from generative artificial intelligence (including, but not limited to, ChatGPT) on the class assignments, writing assignments, presentations, and final paper in this course. This ban on collaboration includes obtaining written materials from any other person or generative artificial intelligence and communicating with any other person about an assignment. If you violate the ban on collaboration policy, you will receive a failing grade on that assignment. You also may be found in violation of the Honor Code, which can lead to serious penalties, including expulsion. An Honor Code investigation must also be reported to the Bar Examiners, even if you are cleared of any violation. When in doubt about how to proceed, ask me.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Reading assignments will be provided throughout the semester via D2L and/or email.

ZOOM POLICIES

Zoom Links:

The Zoom classroom has been linked above. Please do not share the link with anyone else, as we want to prevent “zoom-bombing”.

Zoom Video Participation Requirement:

Zoom is a video conferencing software to allow us to interact remotely. To ensure all students participate, you will be required to use your video during the class, unless otherwise stated. You will need to download Zoom, so please do not wait until the start of class to attempt to connect. SIUC has provided online resources related to Zoom and online learning, which you can find under the student resources page [HERE](#). If you have questions, issues, or concerns, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

I have provided my cell phone number so you can text me if you have an issue connecting to Zoom. If you get booted from Zoom and have to reconnect, please send me a text or else I will not be watching the waiting room to let you in. If you do not have the ability to text, please contact me as soon as possible.

Classroom Etiquette:

Please be courteous to others by keeping distractions to a minimum and give the class your full attention. Due to the participatory nature of this class, you will be required to be on video and participate. If you need to leave the zoom room during class, please do not disrupt the class when leaving or returning to the room.

Please note, you are not welcome to attend class while driving and will be removed from the Zoom classroom and counted as absent.

Zoom Specific Considerations:

- Appropriate classroom behavior and attire is expected.
- Turn off all notifications and make sure your cell phone is on silent.
- Log into class from a distraction-free, quiet environment.
- Please keep yourself on mute until you would like to speak, or I call on you.
- Close all applications on your computer to optimize the video quality.
- Use the “Raise Hand” feature if you would like to speak, I will not be actively watching the chat unless otherwise stated.
- The chat box can be read by all students and myself and will be saved.
- Be mindful of your background and overhead lighting. You may have to adjust ensure you have a quality video image.

Class Recordings:

You may not record or screenshot our class sessions on Zoom. Classes will not be recorded by the Law School except for ADA compatibility reasons with prior notice to the professor. Otherwise, classes will not be recorded except in extraordinary circumstances, such as if a make-up class must be scheduled on a day that is not a regular class meeting day. Except with my prior approval, no other recording of class is allowed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional Attachments:

Please review the below attachments in preparation for the semester per the direction of SIU School of Law Administration:

- School of Law Syllabus Attachment
- SIUC University Syllabus Attachment

I hope you have a wonderful semester!

SYLLABUS ATTACHMENT
SIU SIMMONS LAW SCHOOL – Spring 2026

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: 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/>.

DISABILITY POLICY. SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. The Office of Access and Accommodations, formerly 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 OAA 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.

SALUKI CARES and COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS). 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 Shelia Simon ssimon@siu.edu or (618) 536-8321 is available at the Simmons Law School to help students access university resources. Additionally, counseling services are available through CAPS ([*Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\) | Student Health Services | SIU*](#)). A counselor is at the law school every Wednesday from noon until 4:30pm in Room 268 for drop-in appointments.

SAFETY AWARENESS FACTS AND EDUCATION 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>

Syllabus Attachment

Spring 2026

MISSION STATEMENT FOR SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

SIU embraces a unique tradition of access and opportunity, inclusive excellence, innovation in research and creativity, and outstanding teaching focused on nurturing student success. As a nationally ranked public research university and regional economic catalyst, we create and exchange knowledge to shape future leaders, improve our communities, and transform lives.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Semester Classes Begin:01/12/2026
Last day to add full-term course (without Dean's signature):01/16/2026
Last day to withdraw from the University with a full refund:01/23/2026
Last day to drop a full-term course for a credit/refund:01/23/2026
Last day to drop a full-term course (W grade, no refund):.....03/27/2026
Final examinations:05/04/2026–05/08/2026

Note: Please verify the above dates with the Registrar calendar and find more detailed information on deadlines at <http://registrar.siu.edu/calendars>. For add/drop dates that apply to shorter-than-full-term courses, please look at the Schedule of Classes search results at <http://registrar.siu.edu/schedclass/index.php>

SPRING SEMESTER HOLIDAYS:

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday 01/19/2026
Spring Break 03/07/26 - 03/15/26

DIVERSITY: Southern Illinois University Carbondale's goal is to provide a welcoming campus where all of our students, faculty and staff can study and work in a respectful, positive environment free from racism and intimidation. For more information visit: <http://diversity.siu.edu>.

OFFICE FOR ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATIONS: SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. Office for 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.

MILITARY COMMUNITY: There are complexities of being a member of the military community and also a student, and military and veteran related developments can complicate academic life. If you are a member of the military community and in need of accommodations please visit Veterans Services at <http://veterans.siu.edu/>.

STUDENT MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER: The Student Multicultural Resource Center serves as a catalyst for inclusion, diversity and innovation. As the Center continues its work, we are here to ensure that you think, grow and succeed. We encourage you to stop by the Center, located in the Student Services Building Room 140, to see the resources available and discover ways you can get involved on the campus. Visit us at <https://smrc.siu.edu/>.

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PREGNANCY: Title IX makes it clear that students who are pregnant or have a related condition may contact the Title IX Coordinator to request accommodations or to report any allegations of discrimination. The Title IX Coordinator may be contacted at: Nick Wortman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 0135 Woody Hall, 900 S. Normal Avenue, Mail Code 6520, Carbondale, IL 62901, (618) 453-6667, equity@siu.edu.

SIU COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): Mental health counseling services are available by calling [CAPS](http://caps.siu.edu) at (618) 453-5371. CAPS offers confidential same-day services and ongoing counseling. For after hours crisis care, students are encouraged to call 988, 911, or present to their nearest emergency room.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY (Undergraduate Only): Students who officially register for a session must officially withdraw from that registration in a timely manner to avoid being charged as well as receiving a failing grade for those classes. An official withdrawal must be initiated by the student, or on behalf of the student through the academic unit, and be processed by the Registrar's office. For the proper procedures to follow when dropping courses and when withdrawing from SIUC visit: <https://registrar.siu.edu/students/withdraw.php>.

SIUC'S EARLY WARNING INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EWIP): Students enrolled in courses participating in SIUC's Early Warning Intervention Program might be contacted by University staff during a semester. More information can be found at the University Core Curriculum's Overview webpage: <https://corecurriculum.siu.edu/for-faculty/>.

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CATALOGS:

catalog.siu.edu
gradcatalog.siu.edu - Graduate policies often vary from Undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, please refer to the graduate catalog.

CENTER FOR LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

Tutoring: <https://clss.siu.edu/>
Math Labs: <http://math.siu.edu/courses/course-help.php>

WRITING CENTER: <http://write.siu.edu/>

PLAGIARISM: See the Student Conduct Code: <http://srr.siu.edu/student-conduct-code/>

INCOMPLETE POLICY (Undergraduate Only): <http://registrar.siu.edu/grades/incomplete.php>

REPEAT POLICY: <http://registrar.siu.edu/students/repeatclasses.php>

MORRIS LIBRARY HOURS: <https://libcal.lib.siu.edu/hours/>

ADVISEMENT: <http://advisement.siu.edu/>

SIU ONLINE: <https://online.siu.edu/>