



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SIMMONS LAW SCHOOL TORTS II – SYLLABUS SPRING 2026

Professor Brandy Johnson

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T/Th 9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Office Hours: M/W 4-5 p.m.

PURPOSES OF THE COURSE AND STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This course surveys basic tort law, or the way the law redresses wrongful injuries to another person or their property. We will discuss topics such as intentional torts and negligence. In this course, you will receive an introduction to the legal method, the tort litigation process and the social policy considerations underlying tort law. Moreover, you will learn how to analyze legal problems and how to communicate your legal analysis through writing.

As a student in this class, you should expect to achieve the following learning outcomes throughout the semester:

- Using a relevant fact pattern, students will be able to identify legal issues related to the various tort claims and defenses covered in this course, make critical and effective arguments regarding the application of tort law to the fact pattern and determine the proper resolution of the identified legal issues.
- Students will be able to articulate the distinctions between different forms of liability in tort, including liability for intentional misconduct, negligence, reckless conduct, products liability, and strict liability.
- Students will be able to identify possible instances of implicit and explicit biases in fact patterns and/or cases as well as present effective strategies to respond to or avoid these biases.
- Students will be able to identify and reflect on the various aspects of a person's identity, including how identity is impacted by explicit and implicit bias.
- Students will be able to analyze the system of tort law as a method of providing equitable redress for personal injuries and for promoting social justice.
- Students will be able to produce written work product that demonstrates mastery of the CiRAC method.

REQUIRED TEXT:

GOLDBERG (Et. Al.), TORT LAW: RESPONSIBILITIES AND REDRESS (5th Ed. 2021)
(ISBN 978-1-5438-0680-9)

RECOMMENDED SOURCES:

GLANNON, THE LAW OF TORTS, EXAMPLES AND EXPLANATIONS (6th edition, Aspen).

REQUIRED CLASS TECHNOLOGY:

1. D2L

To supplement class, Professor Johnson will be using D2L. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the information posted and discussed on D2L prior to the examination. All assignments will be posted on D2L.

2. Slido

We will use online polling during our class via www.slido.com. **Please ensure you will be able to log on to Slido from a computer or other smart device during class.**

3. Ed Puzzle

Professor Johnson will be posting some videos for you during the semester on EdPuzzle. This tool allows for the integration of quizzes into the video itself and provides you with instant feedback. Log on to EdPuzzle at www.edpuzzle.com. Sign in with the "I'm a Student Option" and use the Class Code: **rowohof**. Here is a direct link: <https://edpuzzle.com/join/rowohof>.

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Active class participation is essential to success in this course. You should not plan on taking **any** absences in this class unless you have an unforeseen or unavoidable

conflict. As such, attendance is mandatory (including any make-up class), and you may miss no more than four (4) classes during the semester. Students are advised to refrain from using all their absences early in the semester. Those exceeding the maximum number of absences will be subject to the ramifications described in the Law School's attendance policy. See School of Law Rules III.5 (f)-(g). The attendance requirement is not subject to modification by a professor, nor may a professor excuse an absence. If the maximum number of absences allowed has been exhausted, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant leave and relief from the regular attendance requirement in extraordinary circumstances.

This semester, there will be at least one make-up class (e.g., we will need to make up the class that will be missed during Midterm Week). Failure to attend a make-up class or to complete a make-up class assignment will count as an absence.

Being late in the legal field can have costly consequences for your clients, firm/organization, and your career. Being part of a professional school involves acquiring the training and tools needed for long-term success. This includes being timely and prepared for appearances, appointments, and other professional obligations.

Consequently, attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class using the "You-Attend" widget in D2L. A student guide for using the widget has been posted on the D2L page for the class under the "Attendance" tab in "Content."

At the start of each class, students will be provided with a PIN to enter into the You-Attend widget in D2L. Students will be expected to enter the PIN into the widget immediately upon being provided with it by Professor Johnson. Proper entry of the PIN into the widget will record the student's presence for the class and result in a notification that the attendance was successfully recorded. Please note that by entering the PIN into the widget, you are asserting and representing that you: (1) were present in the classroom when the PIN was provided, (2) have completed any assignment for class that day, including having read all assigned materials for the class; and (3) are prepared to participate in the class discussion, including, but not limited to, providing a summary of the cases assigned for the class, answering questions about the material assigned for the class, actively participating in any group discussions/activities, and attempting to answer and/or discuss any hypotheticals posed during class. If, during class, it is apparent that you did not prepare for class, you will be marked absent.

Students not in class at the time the PIN is provided will be counted as absent. Any student who arrives after the PIN has been provided may attend the class; however, they will not be permitted to receive or enter the PIN retroactively and will be counted as absent. Therefore, students are expected to plan accordingly to ensure they have ample time to safely travel to campus and present themselves in the classroom before the appointed time the class is due to start.

Students who are not present in the classroom when the PIN is provided are **prohibited** from asking another student for the PIN, obtaining the PIN, and/or entering the PIN into

the You-Attend widget. Similarly, students who are present when the PIN is provided are **prohibited** from sharing the PIN with, or otherwise making it available to, another student. *Improperly acquiring, using, disclosing, or facilitating access to the PIN will constitute an honor code violation, and the student or students involved will be reported in accordance with the law school's rules.* A violation of the Honor Code 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.

Students are responsible for keeping track of their absences and ensuring they do not exceed the four permitted absences. Students should **not** rely on Professor Johnson to advise them when they have reached their third or fourth absence. Students should be able to check their attendance using the You-Attend widget.

Note: Professor Johnson retains the right to modify the above attendance policy as needed at any point in the semester. Students will be notified of any changes to the policy, including the method used to take and record attendance.

CLASS PREPARATION, PARTICIPATION & ASSIGNMENTS:

Reading Assignments

Reading assignments will be posted on D2L. Professor Johnson will post the reading schedule for each two-to-four-week period well in advance to provide time for you to prepare for class. This will ensure that if we need to spend extra time on a particular concept, we can do so without having to constantly adjust an already published reading schedule. **The first reading assignment is available on D2L.**

1. Class Preparation Assignments

To assist you in your class preparation and to enhance your learning, Professor Johnson will provide you with additional assignments to guide you as you work through the reading assignments. This will include videos with embedded quizzes, guided notes, and other activities. You must complete these class preparation assignments by the start of class. Each assignment will have detailed instructions regarding submission. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Professor Johnson if you have any questions.

2. In-Class Participation

You are required to **actively participate in class**. When called on, be prepared to share your thoughts with the class. Additionally, there will be online polling and quiz questions that you will be asked to answer individually. You are not expected to know every answer, but you are expected to demonstrate that you have sufficiently prepared the assigned materials. Finally, we will engage in some group activities. **If a student is not prepared**

to discuss the assigned materials when called upon, or fails to actively participate during the in-class activities, the student will be marked as absent for that class and the student's grade may be lowered. (See CLASS ATTENDANCE and GRADING sections of the syllabus for more information about attendance and assessment on class preparation and participation).

Note: Unexpected and inconvenient events can occur in life and impact the ability to prepare for, and/or fully participate in, class. Should such an event occur, and you contact Professor Johnson before class, she will consider not calling on you that day. However, Professor Johnson reserves the right to refuse such a request or require proof of the event's occurrence. **Please recognize that this is meant for unusual and/or out-of-the-ordinary occurrences;** it is not a "get out of jail free" card. Professor Johnson reserves the right to nullify this provision of my syllabus should this opportunity be abused.

3. Out-of-Class Assignments

To reinforce your learning, we will be completing several out-of-class assignments. These will include (among other activities) exam writing exercises.

COURSE WORKLOAD:

You might be interested to know that the ABA standards incorporate out-of-class work in the calculation of credit hours. Under the ABA standards, you **should expect to spend 150 minutes per week in class (2.5 hours) plus a minimum of 6 hours of study/class preparation, for a total of 8.5 hours a week.** Our class preparation assignments and out-of-class activities account for much of this time. The remaining time will be spent reviewing and preparing for exams.

PROFESSOR & STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

As a law student, it is expected that you will treat your time spent in class and preparing for class as a professional. You can expect the same from Professor Johnson. While the following list is not exhaustive, these guidelines will assist in the creation of a comfortable and productive learning environment throughout the semester.

You can expect Professor Johnson:

- To start and end class on time.
- To reply to e-mails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends.
- To be available during my posted office hours (and to provide alternative office hours should any require rescheduling).

- To assign out-of-class work that adequately covers the material and meets the learning objectives of the course while adhering to the time expectations for a 3-credit course.
- To give exams that accurately reflect the material covered in class and assigned in our readings.

Professor Johnson will expect you:

- To come to every class and to be on time.
- To be attentive and engaged in class.
- To only leave class when necessary (e.g., to use the restroom) and to keep these departures to a minimum throughout the semester.
- To refrain from using laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices during class for anything other than classwork.
- To spend an adequate amount of time on the assigned readings for each week, making an effort to understand the legal principles covered, and carefully completing the assignments.
- To seek help when appropriate.

GRADING:

A. Final Examination (50%) The final examination will be a **comprehensive, closed-book examination** at the end of the semester. More details will be provided in class.

B. Midterm Examination (25%) The midterm examination will be during the week of **March 2, 2026**. **The exact date for your midterm examination will be provided at a later date.** Additional details will be provided in class.

C. Out-of-Class Writing Assignments (25%)

Information regarding each assignment's requirements and the basis for grading will be distributed with each assignment. Ten points of this amount will be for assignments completed in Mastering Legal Education.

D. Class Preparation & Participation

Careful preparation and active class participation are fundamental to success in law school. To receive full credit, a student must complete the following tasks:

1. Carefully read all assignments prior to attending class. This includes looking up any new terms in Black's Law Dictionary or an equivalent dictionary. If a student is not prepared to discuss the reading material when called upon, the student's preparation and class participation grade may be lowered.
2. Complete all class preparation assignments (including handouts and quizzes) in a timely **and** professional manner, demonstrating minimum professional competency.

3. Watch any assigned videos (**completing the embedded quizzes**).
4. Actively participate in class.

E. Late Out-of-Class Assignments

All assignments will have a specified date and time by which they will be due. To receive credit for an assignment, students are expected to complete and submit it by the specified date and time that it is due. If a student is unable to submit an assignment by the specified date and time, the student may submit a written Motion for Extension of Time to request permission to submit the assignment post-deadline. The motion must be submitted to Professor Johnson within 24 hours of the specified date and time the assignment was due. Upon review of the motion, Professor Johnson reserves the right to grant or deny the request. In consideration of the students who submitted the assignment in a timely manner, extensions will only be granted for unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. Accordingly, students should plan on submitting all assignments in a timely manner, as extensions of time will only be considered for extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances.

***BAN ON COLLABORATION ON CLASS PREPARATION, OUT-OF-CLASS
ASSIGNMENTS, & EXAMS:***

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 and Lexis AI) on any class preparation, exercises, or out-of-class assignment in this course **unless expressly stated otherwise in the instructions to that assignment**. This ban on collaboration includes obtaining written materials from any other person or generated artificial intelligence and/or communicating with any other person about an assignment. This ban on collaboration applies to both graded and ungraded exercises. If you violate the ban on collaboration policy, you can 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.

The exams in this course will be closed book. You may **NOT** consult materials of any kind, with any person other than the proctor, nor access any other resource, including, but not limited to generative artificial intelligence like Lexis AI, ChatGTP, etc. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a failing grade on this exam. 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.

PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarizing another's work, in whole or in part, is a violation of the Honor Code and 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. The Honor Code defines plagiarism as:

passing off another's ideas, words, or work as one's own, including written, oral, multimedia, or other work, either word for word or in substance, unless the student author credits the original author and identifies the original author's work with quotation marks, footnotes, or other appropriate designation in such a way as to make clear the true author of the work.

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 **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/>.

ATTACHMENTS:

This Syllabus incorporates by reference the Law School Syllabus Attachment and the Provost Syllabus Attachment available on the course D2L page.

NOTICE OF RECORDING POLICIES:

For the benefit of students who are unable to attend a particular class due to an unavoidable circumstance, and for students who wish to review a particular class to better facilitate learning objectives, class sessions will be recorded. You must contact Professor Johnson for the recording. Because of the possibility of a technical malfunction, Professor

Johnson cannot guarantee the successful recording of every class. Students are free to make audio (not video) recordings of class lectures for their own purposes but are not permitted to distribute those recordings to other individuals inside or outside of class. Distributing or acquiring a copy of the recordings without the permission of Professor Johnson can constitute a 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.

OFFICE HOURS:

Professor Johnson's office hours will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Feel free to stop by her office outside of these hours. Professor Johnson will also be available throughout the semester via email or by scheduled appointment (which may be via Zoom/Teams or phone). If you would like to schedule an appointment, please email Professor Johnson with some proposed dates and times.

FIRST ASSIGNMENT:

You must sign in to D2L for the first assignment.