

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

LAW 620 / SECTION 3

SPRING 2018

M/W 4:00-4:50, ROOM #206

SPEARIT

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THE PROFESSOR

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LOCATION: Suite 236N

OFFICE HOURS: M/W 1-4 and by appointment

NOTE ON OFFICE HOURS:

Please note—aside from regular office hours I maintain an “open door” policy by which you can stop by my office anytime my door is open/cracked. If my door is completely shut, it means that I am preparing for class or working on school-related business—so unless it is an emergency, please stop by at another time or schedule a time to meet.

COURSE BOOKS & MATERIAL

1. Ethical Problems in the Practice of Law (2017 & 2018 ed.) by Lerman, Schrag, Gupta. You need not buy this particular book, but the rules are outlined well and its Table of Contents is extremely useful for working problems. The main point is that you have a hardcopy of the current ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct (MR) and Code of Judicial Conduct (CJC). I will provide electronic copies of both, which can be printed. Otherwise any rulebook from 2015 on will be sufficient.

2. I will forward you a working outline for the law of lawyering. Feel free to use it and supplement it for your own study purposes, but do not share or make any proprietary use of the outline. You will need to be ready to attack problems in class, so be prepared with the rules and course materials for each class.

3. I will post weekly required readings on TSU's Blackboard website.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVE

DESCRIPTION:

This 2-credit, PR-credit-satisfying course will explore the black letter "law of lawyering," including the judicial ethics rules, and will apply that law in a variety of practice settings. The weekly topics are outlined below.

OBJECTIVE:

The primary focus of the course is to understand the basics concepts of ethical conduct for lawyers. Secondly is to prepare students to take the MPRE, prepare students to respond to PR essay questions with a tailored formula, and expose students to the basic principles of professionalism. Hence the course focuses on honing student test-taking skills and practicing MPRE style examination questions with ongoing feedback from the instructor; it also focuses on professional conduct and developing one's identity as a lawyer.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will become competent in determining ethical violations and permissible conduct for lawyers and judges in a variety of practical situations. Most critically, students will understand lawyer liabilities that include malpractice liability, discipline by the state bar, and being the subject of ineffective assistance of counsel claims. Classes will involve *discussions of problem sets* devoted to a particular topic (e.g., confidentiality, loyalty, etc.). Students will also have the opportunity to develop issue spotting and essay writing skills, including practice quizzes and a graded essay midterm. By the end of the semester, students will master basic lawyering skills of professional responsibility, will become competent in identifying paradigmatic question structures on the MPRE, and develop problem-solving and issue-spotting strategies. As assessments will be administered on ExamSoft, students will be afforded the opportunity for sustained feedback on areas of weakness and improvement.

GRADING

30% Final Exam
30% Midterm Exam
20% Issue Spotter Essay Quiz
20% Pop Quiz

2018 MPRE TEST DATE, REGISTRATION DEADLINE & FEES		
Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline (\$95)	Late Registration Deadline (\$190)
Sat., March 24, 2018	February 1, 2018	February 8, 2018

ACCOMMODATIONS

Please see professor.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR:



THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2017 – 2018

FALL SEMESTER 2017 (SEVENTY DAYS OF CLASSES)

Orientation	Monday-Friday	August 14-18, 2017
First Day of Class	Monday	August 21, 2017
Last Day to ADD/DROP	Friday	August 25, 2017
Labor Day (NO CLASSES)	Monday	September 4, 2017
<i>Purge of all unpaid course selections</i>	Thursday	September 20, 2017
Mid Term Examinations	Mon – Fri	October 16-20, 2017
VETERANS DAY (NO CLASSES)	Friday	November 10, 2017 (tentative)
Thanksgiving Holiday	Thurs – Fri	November 23-24, 2017
Last Day of Classes	Thursday	November 30, 2017
Last Day to Drop a Class	Thursday	November 30, 2017
First Year Professors' Grades due	Thursday	November 30, 2017
Reading Period (NO CLASS)	Friday - Sunday	December 1-3, 2017
Final Examinations	Mon – Fri	December 4 - Dec. 15, 2017
Commencement	Saturday	December 16, 2017

SPRING SEMESTER 2018 (SEVENTY DAYS OF CLASSES)

School Opens	Tuesday	January 2, 2018
First Day of Class	Monday	January 8, 2018
Last Day to ADD/DROP	Friday	January 12, 2018
M L K Holiday (No Classes)	Monday	January 15, 2018
<i>Purge of all unpaid course selections</i>	Wednesday	February 7, 2018
President's Day Holiday (No Classes)	Monday	February 19, 2018
Mid Term Examinations	Mon – Fri	March 5– 9, 2018
Spring Break	Mon – Fri	March 12 – 16, 2018
Good Friday (No Classes)	Friday	March 30, 2018
Last Day of Classes	Wednesday	April 25, 2018
Last Day to Drop a Class	Wednesday	April 25, 2018
First Year Professors' Grades due	Wednesday	April 25, 2018
Reading Period (No Classes)	Thur. – Sun	April 26 - 29, 2018
Final Examinations	Mon- Fri	April 30 – May 11, 2018
Hooding Ceremony	Friday	May 11, 2018
Commencement	Saturday	May 12, 2018

Please note that the calendar events and /or dates are subject to change.

TMSLAW REGISTRAR
Approved 5/31/2017

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- Attendance is mandatory; school of law policy, informed by the ABA accreditation standards, requires regular and punctual attendance. Excessive absences *will affect your grade and you may be dropped from the course.*
- You will need access to TSU Blackboard and ExamSoft/Softest. I will be posting assignments and communicating with you on Blackboard and we will be using ExamSoft for assessments.
- No texts other than the rules & course supplements are allowed in class or in exams.
- No computers, cell phones, tablets or such electronic devices are allowed in class.
- Outstanding class participation can raise your grade by a mark, e.g., a “B” will become “B+”.
- Any student who takes and passes the March MPRE will earn 3 full percentage points toward the final course grade.
- To enhance the learning experience you will have opportunity to learn through class participation and rigorous questioning. Students should read all materials assigned for each class and be fully prepared for class discussion.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 (1/8)

The Attorney Client Relationship Lifecycle & Client Identity

Week 2 (1/15, Monday Holiday, no Class)

The Attorney Client Relationship Lifecycle & Client Identity (cont'd)

Week 3 (1/22)

“Abide, Consult, Communicate”

Week 4 (1/29; No Class Meeting on 1/31)

Competence & Diligence

Week 5 (2/5, 2/7--Guest speaker—Imrana Chowdhry Manzanares, Esq.)

Confidentiality & Privilege

Week 6 (2/12)

Confidentiality/Loyalty I (Conflicts)

Week 7 (2/19 Monday Holliday, no class)

Loyalty II (Conflicts)

Week 8 (2/26)

Loyalty III

Week 9 (3/5)

Midterm Review / **Midterm on Wed. 3/7**

Week 10 (3/12 Spring Break)

Civil Litigation

Week 11 (3/19)

Code of Judicial Conduct

Week 12 (3/26)

Fees

Week 13 (4/2) (Issue Spotter Quiz)

Criminal Litigation

Week 14 (4/9)

Transactional & Negotiation

Week 15 (4/16)

Supervisor/Subordinate

Week 16 4/23

Review