

Fall, 2013

On-Line
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Professor Biernat

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Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to give students an understanding of the law that governs the conduct of lawyers. The focus will be on the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct and the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct. The course will emphasize the impact of these rules on the practice of law and procedures available for improvement of the legal profession. The course will compare selected Model Rules to the actual rules adopted by Minnesota and other states.

Process

You will be required to work through weekly lessons and engage in group discussions. There will be 28 Hamline lessons that you will be required to complete, which will be based on readings from the required casebook. There will also be nine CALI lessons that were modified for this course. The weekly assignments and due dates are listed under the Assignment link on TWEN.

The lessons are operated through the CALI server so you will have to log on to TWEN and follow the lesson link to the CALI server. Make sure that you are registered for both. You must follow the lesson link on TWEN to do the Hamline Lessons and the modified CALI lessons.

The lessons are in a new format that will allow you to do lessons from mobile devices. Your scores on the multiple choice questions will be saved automatically. But, you must click “review your answer” to save an essay question. Make sure that you do the Test Lesson to insure that your settings are correct.

I am trying to design the course so that the time that you put in will be about the same as any other two-credit course, but there will be no class hours. You can complete your assignments and discussion at any time during the week that they are assigned. The assignments and completion dates will be posted on TWEN. The lesson will not be posted in advance, but you can do the reading in advance.

Required Text

Morgan, Rotunda and Dzienkowski, Professional Responsibility (11th), Foundation Press. 2011. Note: Get the regular edition and not the concise edition.

Rotunda and Dzienkowski, Professional Responsibility, A Student’s Guide, 2012-13 Edition, ABA, Thomson West. Optional: The ABA Code of Judicial Conduct 2007.

The weekly reading assignments will not be long. However, I hope that the material will give you much to think about as you work through the lessons. The Student’s Guide serves as a

resource since we will not have class time for discussion. It contains both the Rules as well as a detailed explanation that will enable you to understand the rationale and policies behind each of them.

Office Hours and Communication

The primary means of communication will be via e-mail. Office hours will be posted. However, I will be in the office at other times. Feel free to stop by whenever my door is open.

Grading and Attendance

The grade will be based primarily on the final examination, which will be self-directed at the law school. You will also be required to complete all of the lessons that are listed through TWEN. These will be graded on a pass/no pass basis, based on successful completion of each of the lessons. Lessons and discussion must be completed by the deadline in order to get full credit. I am not concerned about the raw score that you receive on the lesson, but I am concerned that you understand why your answer might be incorrect. I will read the essays in your lesson and let you know if they are below standards.

Computer Policy

Faculty members are required to post their policy for use of computers in the classroom. Obviously, you must use your computers in this class. My requirement is that you do not do your lessons or discussion while you are in a live class at Hamline.

First Assignment to be completed by the end of Tuesday , August 27.

Do the Test Lesson to make sure that your computer settings are correct.
Read Morgan, Problem 1, 2, 3, and 4.
Read Rules 8.1, 8.4, and 5.5 in the Student Guide
Complete Hamline Lesson 1, 2, 3, 4, and CALI Lesson 1
Discussion for Week 1

Information Memo

On Monday, August 19, students will receive an e-mail on Piperline with detailed instructions on the course procedures along with the password for TWEN. The TWEN site will provide you with a link to the Lessons for the first week