

**Professional Responsibility
GSU College of Law
Spring 2007**

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Office Hours: Wed. 4:00-6:00 pm
and by appointment

Overview: This course will address the professional responsibility and legal ethics issues generally covered in the MPRE and the state bar examination, and will also look at broader questions of our aspirations and responsibilities as lawyers to our clients, our communities, the legal system, and the rule of law.

Materials:

Required Texts:

Mortimer D. Schwartz, et al., *Problems in Legal Ethics* (7th Ed., 2005)
John S. Dzienkowski, ed., *Professional Responsibility Standards, Rules & Statutes* (2006-2007 ed.)

Additional Readings:

Additional materials will be available online, on reserve in the library, or as handouts.

Requirements/Grading:

10% of your grade will be based on attendance and participation (individually and in group exercises)

30% based on a take-home essay

60% based on a multiple choice exam similar to (but shorter than) the MPRE

Attendance & participation:

Attendance is mandatory and lateness may count as an absence. Points may be deducted from your final grade if you miss more than two class sessions. If you have an attendance problem, please discuss it with me.

Tentative Schedule & Assignments (like all things, subject to change) Unless otherwise noted, the page numbers refer to the Schwartz text. Please ALSO read applicable sections of the Standards/Rules/Statutes.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Jan. 11	Lawyers, Law & the Rule of Law	<p>Read pp. 1-5 and Hernandez-Truyol, "The Rule of Law and Human Rights," 16 <i>Fla. J. Int'l L.</i> 167 (2004).</p> <p>In preparation for class: (1) finish this sentence: "I decided to be a lawyer and/or come to law school because" ; and (2) come up with your best explanation of the relationship between <i>laws</i> and the <i>rule of law</i>. (These will not be handed in or graded.)</p>
Jan. 18	Becoming a Lawyer	<p>Read pp. 28-50; ABA Model Rules: Preamble, Scope, Terminology, and Rules 5.5; 8.1-8.5; "Preamble" to Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct (avail. on State Bar website, www.gabar.org/handbook); Carrington, "Tocqueville's Aristocracy in Minnesota," 26 <i>Wm. Mitchell L. Rev.</i> 485 (2000).</p>
Jan. 25	Relating to Clients	<p>Read pp. 51-81 and ABA MR 1.16, 1.18, 3.1, 6.1, 6.1; Stephen B. Bright, "Turning Celebrated Principles into Reality," 27-Feb. <i>Champion</i> 6 (2003).</p> <p>Qu: What has happened in Georgia re: indigent defense since Bright's article was published?</p>
Feb. 1	Getting Business, Handling Money	<p>Read pp. 82-141; ABA MR 7.1-7.6, 1.5, 1.8(e), 1.15</p>
Feb. 8	Why Do They Hate Us? Avoiding Malpractice	<p>Read pp. 142-164, ABA MR notes 4 & 7 to Preamble, Rules 1.1-1.4, 1.8(h), 5.3-5.5; Boyd S. Lemon, "Ten Reasons Lawyers Get Sued," 43-Sep <i>Orange County Lawyer</i> 28 (2001); Karen Erger, "The Alligator in the toilet: 10 Loss-Prevention Myths Debunked," 92 <i>Ill. Bar J.</i> 319 (2004).</p>

Remaining assignments will be provided with several weeks' notice.