SYLLABUS
Legal Profession
Law 580
Summer 2015
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
1:00-2:40 p.m.
Room 102

Mark Brittingham
Clinical Assistant Professor

Room 211
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NOTE: I have utilized Professor John Erbes’s Syllabus for his section of Law 580 in preparing this Syllabus. Therefore, much contained herein is his work, & I thank him for his assistance.

Textbook:

Companion Material:

Course Description:
This course examines the Rules of Professional Responsibility that attorneys must follow, along with related topics such as the attorney-client privilege, maintaining confidentiality of information, conflicts of interest, attorney fees, ethics & civility in advocacy and attorney discipline. The course will also address malpractice, attorney liability to third parties, and judicial ethics. Much of the material that we will cover is tested on the Multistate Bar Exam on Professional Responsibility.

I am using the same textbook as Professor Erbes, and I hope to parallel his class assignments so that students in my class can study with students from his class.

Testing and Grading:
There will be a final exam and a mid-term assignment. I may also consider class participation in determining final grades.
Attendance:

I must take attendance. The rules of the law school require it. I will do so by circulating an attendance sheet during each class. Please be sure that you sign it. Your signature on the attendance sheet establishes your presence during that class period. Correlatively, the lack of such a signature conclusively establishes your absence. Therefore, be certain to sign the attendance sheet each day. Under the rules of the School of Law, you are entitled to three (3) absences. **More than three (3) absences will result in your withdrawal from the class.**

Recording of Class Sessions:

THIS CLASS WILL BE RECORDED (I hope, but not guaranty) and will be available for review in the library computer lab.

TWEN:

There is a TWEN page for the course. You must sign on to the TWEN page immediately so that I can contact you as needed. Consult the TWEN page regularly. Changes in class meetings, assignments, and other important material will be presented on the TWEN page. It is your responsibility to check the TWEN page regularly.

Office Hours:

My office is Room 211, on the second floor of the law school. I have not established formal office hours for the summer. If you would like to meet with me, just send me an e-mail and we can arrange a time to meet. Otherwise, I will nearly always be available immediately after class.

Computers in the Class:

A couple of years ago I banned computers in this class because I believed that students don’t pay adequate attention in class. Since, I have continued the policy and it appears to work well, so you may not use your computer OR PHONE in class. YOU NEED TO PAY ATTENTION IN THIS CLASS, not just because you must pass it to graduate, but because you must also pass the MPRE. COMPUTERS AND PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS.
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 the SIUC emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.** The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

Course Schedule & Assignments:

**Week of June 15th**

15 Where do “Ethics” Rules Come From?
**Assignment:** Read Textbook, Chapter 1, pages 1-18, & the ABA Model Rules Preamble. Also Read POP GOES THE LAW from TWEN materials.

16 CHAPTER XII Control of Quality: Reducing the Likelihood of Professional Failure. Pages 583-648. **NOTE:** We will not cover the material in the same order that it appears in the book, so you must read the entire chapter to be adequately prepared.