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:
Ethics of the Lawyer’s Work, Jas. Moliterno, 2d Ed. (Thomson/West 2003)

Companion Material:


Course Description:

This course examines the Rules of Professional Responsibility that attorneys must follow, as well as 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 a new textbook. It is NOT the same textbook as Professor Erbes uses. I chose the new text because I believe it will allow us to focus more on the rules and subjects likely covered on the MPRE.

Testing and Grading:

There will be a final exam and a mid-term exam. I may also use pop quizzes to ensure everyone is preparing, and I WILL consider class participation in determining final grades. The exams will be multiple choice. I am hopeful that they will model the MPRE somewhat to assist you in your preparation for that exam.
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 six (6) absences. **More than six (6) absences will result in withdrawal from the class.**

Recording of Class Sessions:

THIS CLASS WILL BE RECORDED 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 because I am nearly always in my office (although I may yet establish office hours). I will likely be here most days. I prefer NOT to meet with students in the mornings on Monday and Tuesday, as I will need that time to make final preparations for the class that I teach that morning. Otherwise, feel free to stop in anytime.

Computers in the Class:

Last year I banned computers in this class because I believe that students don’t pay adequate attention (belief repeatedly borne out by performance on the final exams). 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. Therefore, COMPUTERS 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](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Safety’s website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://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 January 13th**

**Jan. 13:** Read *Pop Goes the Law* posted on TWEN. Also read the Textbook, Chapter 1, pages 1-79.

**Jan. 15:** Read Textbook, pp. 80-108. Also read the cases on TWEN that are assigned to you.