

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
PROFESSIONALISM & THE LAW**

Interim Dean and Professor of Law

Cindy G. Buys

Fall 2019

Fridays 10:00-10:50 a.m.

Room 102

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Professionalism and the Law is a one-credit, year-long course focusing on the legal profession and the role of the lawyer. This course is different from your other courses. While other courses are designed to convey information about legal rights and duties and practice skills that will enable you to represent clients, this course is about the values, norms, expectations, and ideals of the legal profession and your successful transition into it. The objectives of this course are to: (1) familiarize you with the values and expectations of the legal profession; (2) introduce you to some ethical issues you may face as lawyers; and (3) help you develop your professional identity and purpose in a rapidly changing legal profession.

CONTACT INFO:

Dean's Office, Room 134

Office phone: 453-8743

E-mail: cbuys@siu.edu

Office Hours: MW 2-3 p.m. or by appointment

The best way to contact Dean Buys or set up an appointment is by email. You may email Dean Buys directly or contact her assistant, Michele Tourville (tville@siu.edu), for an appointment.

REQUIRED READINGS: Over the summer, you are assigned to read one book from an approved list. There are no other required textbooks for this course. Additional reading assignments will be either handed out in class or posted on The West Education Network (TWEN) course webpage. You must ensure you are registered for this course on the TWEN page with an email that you check regularly to have access to important information about the course, including readings and other assignments.

YOUR GRADE (COURSE REQUIREMENTS):

This course will be graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. In order to receive a grade of Satisfactory and credit for the fall component of this course, you must meet the following requirements:

Attend all "mandatory" sessions, including:

(1) Interdisciplinary Professional Responsibility Day (approximately 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. on Saturday, September 7; details TBA)

(2) Character and Fitness Presentation (September 13)

(3) Declaration Drafting Workshop (September 27)

(4) Induction Ceremony (Tuesday, October 22)

(5) At least two of the four major law school lecture events over the course of the academic year: Lesar, Ryan Bioethicist, Beatty Jurist-in-Resident, and Simonds. You may also attend at least one panel discussion of the Law Journal Symposium in lieu of one of the distinguished lectures.

Satisfy the attendance policy for the class (see below).

Complete all written assignments. Although there will be no final examination in this course, there will be other assignments throughout the semester and year. You must “pass” or satisfactorily complete *all* such assignments in order to receive a grade of “S” for the course.

Part of professional behavior is being on time. Being present on time for class demonstrates respect for the professor and your classmates. If for some unavoidable reason you are late to class, you will be asked to sing a short song, recite a poem, or contribute \$.50 towards an end-of-the-semester snack.

You must make positive contributions to the class discussion, both in the large group discussions and in any small group activities to which you are assigned. In addition, you are expected to adhere to the conduct expectations stated below at all times in this course, including but not limited to the large and small group activities. If you violate the conduct expectations, you may receive a grade of “U” for this course.

If you receive an unsatisfactory grade for this course, you will have to repeat the course next year and receive a Satisfactory grade to graduate.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS CLASS:

This is a course about professionalism and, as such, you are expected to conduct yourself in a civil and professional manner at all times in connection with all activities associated with this course, including in-class and outside-of-class activities that are conducted as part of this course and on social media. This means you should be respectful of others at all times. It is certainly permissible for you to disagree and you are encouraged to express your opinions in a respectful and courteous manner. Comments—written or oral—that are racist, sexist, abusive, profane, violent, obscene, libelous or threatening will not be tolerated and may cause you to receive an unsatisfactory grade in the course.

ATTIRE:

As a general rule, you are not required to dress in a particular way for this class (any exceptions will be announced). However, you should keep in mind that we often will have guest speakers who are alumni, judges, and other professionals on whom you may wish to make a good impression for purposes of networking, future job prospects, and your general reputation in the profession. Accordingly, it is recommended that you dress in business casual on days when we have guest

speakers (e.g., no shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, etc.). Here at SIU, we participate in Saluki Spirit Fridays. On days when you are not dressing up for class, you are encouraged to wear your Saluki gear (T-shirts, polo shirts, jackets, etc.). (There may be prizes involved.)

ELECTRONICS POLICY:

You may not use any electronics in class except when expressly instructed otherwise. This means no laptops, cell phones, iPads or other electronic tablets or devices, or anything else with an on/off switch. Failure to comply with this policy may result in a grade of Unsatisfactory or an absence for that class. You should bring paper and a pen or pencil to class instead. Because there is no final exam, there is little need to take notes or prepare an outline. Instead, you are asked to give the class your undivided attention and to participate regularly in class discussions and activities.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

The School of Law's attendance policy applies to this class. Because this course meets only once a week and it does not meet every week, it is very important that you attend each class. You are permitted only one (1) absence per semester, absent extraordinary circumstances. It is your responsibility to keep track of your absences.

If you miss more than one class a semester without permission, you will receive a grade of Unsatisfactory in this course.

The "one-absence" rule does **NOT** apply to the mandatory attendance sessions of this course; you are not permitted any absences at the mandatory attendance sessions. **If you miss any of the mandatory attendance sessions without permission, you will receive a grade of Unsatisfactory in this class.**

RECORDING POLICY:

This class may be recorded, but you must have professor permission to view the recording. Viewing a recording of the class does not count as being present in the class, unless the professor has made a special exception.

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.

DISABILITY POLICY.

Disability Support Services provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. <http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/>. Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreement to the School of Law Registrar's Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations.

SALUKI CARES.

The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-5714, or siucares@siu.edu, <http://salukicare.siu.edu/index.html>. At the School of Law, Assistant Dean Judi Ray is also available to help students access university resources. Her email is judiray@siu.edu, and her phone number is 618- 453-3135.

Below is the schedule of classes and activities as of August 2019. Any changes will be posted on the class TWEN page and announced in class.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:

DATE:

TOPIC:

August 13
11:45 a.m.

Introduction to the Core Values of the Legal Profession;
discussion of summer reading with alumni guests

Assignment: Review the book you read over the summer and your reflection paper and come to lunch prepared to discuss the book. Bring a hard copy of your reflection paper with you.

August 23

No Class.

August 30

Introduction to the Course; to the role of the lawyer, your role as a law student; and the core values of the legal profession.
Assignment: Read "Professionalism Benefits Attorneys, Their Clients and the Legal Community" and "What is a Profession?" (TWEN)

September 6

No Class.

SATURDAY, September 7

Interdisciplinary Professionalism Day
French Auditorium, Lindegren Hall

Assignment to be posted on the class TWEN page.

Special Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. (Further details TBA)

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

September 13

Bar Admission Character & Fitness Requirements
Guests: Professor Suzanne Schmitz & Associate Dean Macias

September 20

No class.

September 27

Declaration Drafting Workshop

Assignment: Materials for Declaration Drafting Workshop will be posted on the class TWEN page. You must read these materials and bring to class your written statements regarding obligations to clients, the legal profession, society, and as a law student.

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

October 4

No regular class. Group leaders meet to negotiate Professionalism Pledge.

October 11

No class. Mid-Term Assessment Week.

October 18

No class. Homecoming Weekend.

TUESDAY, October 22

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Reception before ceremony at 4:45 p.m.

Ceremony at 5:30 p.m.

Induction Ceremony – Law School Auditorium

Wear courtroom attire – Friends and family are welcome!

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

October 25

No class.

Wednesday, October 30

Beatty Jurist-in-Residence Lecture

Courtroom, 5 p.m.

November 1

Guest Lecture by Judge Michael R. Murphy, Beatty Jurist-in-Residence

Class meets in Auditorium

November 8

Pro Bono

Guest Speakers: Assistant Dean Mike Ruiz and panelists

Assignment: To be posted on TWEN

November 15 Professional Panel – (tentative)
Discussion of Winter Break Assignments.

November 21 No Class

November 30 No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

December 6 No Class. Good luck on finals!

WINTER BREAK ASSIGNMENTS:

You will have two assignments to complete over winter break. Both will be requirements of the spring 2020 Professionalism course, but you will complete both during the break between the conclusion of fall exams and the beginning of the spring semester. The two assignments are as follows:

1. You will “shadow” a lawyer or judge (who is not a relative) for at least one-half day (at least 3.5 hours) and write a short paper about your experience. You will receive more details about this during the fall course, but you should be thinking about who and where you want to job shadow.
2. You will write a 3-4 page typed, double-spaced reflection paper about your job shadowing experience. The paper should include a brief (1-2 paragraph) professional description of the person you chose to shadow and why you chose that person. The paper should then describe your observations and any professional or unprofessional behavior you observed by judges, attorneys, or their legal staff. Finally, you should relate what you observed to the professionalism concepts we are discussing in the course. If you received any professional advice from the attorney you shadowing, you are encouraged to share that advice and your reaction to it.