

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
PROFESSIONALISM & THE LAW (501B)**

Interim Dean and Professor of Law

Cindy G. Buys

Spring 2020

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

Room 102

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This course is the second half of a one-credit, year-long course focusing on the legal profession and the role of the lawyer. This course will continue to examine the values, norms, and ideals of the legal profession and will help you successfully transition into it. We will reflect on the status of the legal profession, consider its future, and your role in it. Part of being a professional is demonstrating competence in core skills necessary to be successful. Accordingly, this semester, we will be incorporating some additional skills elements that will help prepare you for success in law school and beyond and will help you assess your level of preparation and competence.

CONTACT INFO:

Dean's Office, Room 134

Office phone: 453-8743

E-mail: cbuys@siu.edu

Office Hours: MW 2-3 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).

REQUIRED READINGS: Emanuel, *Strategies & Tactics for the MBE* (6th Edition, 2016). Additional reading assignments will be either handed out in class or posted on the course TWEN page.

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 spring component of this course, you must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Satisfy all attendance requirements
- (2) Attend at least two of the four major law school lecture events over the course of the academic year: Beatty Jurist in Residence (Oct. 2019); Ryan Bioethicist (Feb. 26); Law Journal Symposium (Mar. 19); and Simonds (TBA) or Lesar (TBA).
- (3) Complete all assignments. At the end of this semester, there will be a "mini-bar exam" during the exam period which will test your knowledge of first year law school subjects. You

must “pass” or satisfactorily complete *all* assignments in order to receive a grade of S for the course.

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.

CLASS SCHEDULE

A tentative schedule of classes and activities for the semester is set forth below. Because we have many guest speakers, this subject could change depending on their availability. To the best of my ability, I will give you at least a week’s notice of any scheduling changes.

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 I encourage you to express your opinions, but you are expected to always do so 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. You should bring paper and a pen or pencil to class instead.

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 during the course of the semester.

If you miss more than one class absent extraordinary circumstances, you will receive a grade of Unsatisfactory in this course.

RECORDING POLICY:

This class will 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.

See the SIU SCHOOL OF LAW SYLLABUS ATTACHMENT for additional policies relating to emergency procedures, disability policies and procedures, and Saluki Cares (posted on the class TWEN page and on the SIU School of Law website).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES:

This schedule will likely be updated as the semester progresses. Changes will be communicated in class and through the class TWEN page.

DATE:

TOPIC:

January 17

Welcome back! Make-up classes for Martin Luther King Day. No regular Professionalism class; however, there may be a required meeting during part of this class session to discuss bar testing. Look for an announcement from Professor Upchurch and/or Cox.

January 24

Discussion of Job Shadowing Assignments, Professional Communications, and Oral Presentations

January 31

No class. **On line Assignment:** Draft and submit short biography on TWEN by 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 31.

February 7

The Benefits of Joining a Bar Association
Panel of guest speakers

February 14

Financial Matters
Guest Speaker: Theresa Popp Braun, AccessLex Guest Speaker
You may bring laptops to this class to use for class-related purposes.

February 21

Oral presentations
Class will begin at 9:30 am

February 26
5 p.m.

John and Marsha Ryan Bioethicist-in-Residence Lecture

February 28

Oral presentations
Class will begin at 9:30 am

March 6 No class. Midterm Assessment Week

March 13 No class. Spring Break

March 19 Law Journal Symposium

March 20 Cross-cultural communication
Assignment TBA

March 27 TBA

April 3 Guest Speaker: Mark Palmer, Illinois Supreme Court
Commission on Professionalism

April 10 TBA

April 17 TBA

April 24 TBA
