

**COURSE SYLLABUS - LAW 580 (SECTION 1)<sup>1</sup>**  
**LEGAL PROFESSION – SPRING 2021 (FIRST WEEK)**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Prof. Jennifer Brobst

**CLASS TIME/ROOM:** Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30 - 2:45 pm / Online [see TWEN for Zoom info]

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment - Office 244, [jbrobst@siu.edu](mailto:jbrobst@siu.edu), 618-453-8702

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This three-credit required upper division course covers the ethical responsibility of lawyers to clients, members of the legal profession, and the community at large. Topics include, for example, attorney confidentiality, communication between attorney and client, judicial and attorney conflicts of interest, attorney fees, ethics in the adversarial process, attorney advertising and solicitation, legal malpractice, and admission to and disqualification from the bar.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Students will learn how to understand and apply the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and the Model Code of Judicial Conduct, as well as the general disciplinary processes of the American self-governing legal profession.
- Students will gain research and critical thinking skills, applying ethical opinions in individual state jurisdictions to unique and novel ethical concerns.
- Finally, students will develop skills in prioritizing ethical challenges and managing the stresses of the profession to promote fair, consistent and resilient legal representation.

**GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:** *MPT WAC Assignment* (20%) and *MPRE Final Exam* (80%); several mandatory MPRE practice quizzes will be given throughout the course which must be passed within the designated time period to pass the course (students may miss one ungraded practice quiz)

**MAKEUP CLASS:** We have to make up one class due to the law school's holiday schedule, which will be accomplished through an additional out of class review of the quiz results before the final exam.

**REQUIRED BOOKS:**

- ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct (2020) Center for Professional Responsibility, ABA Book Publishing, ISBN 978-1641056502 (hard copy – better than ebook for annotation and future use on bar prep); both formats available at: <https://www.americanbar.org/products/inv/book/394021849/>; also post-publication updates to the rules available at: [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional\\_responsibility/publications/model\\_rules\\_of\\_professional\\_conduct.html](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/publications/model_rules_of_professional_conduct.html) – purchase at the member rate (law students get free membership)
- Patrick Emery Longan, Questions & Answers: Professional Responsibility (4th ed. 2017), Carolina Academic Press, ISBN 978-1531006457 (e-book or hard copy)
- Download the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct (2020 edition) for free at [http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional\\_responsibility/publications/model\\_code\\_of\\_judicial\\_conduct.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/publications/model_code_of_judicial_conduct.html)

---

<sup>1</sup> For additional university policies common to all classes, see <https://law.siu.edu/academics/semester-info/syllabi/sp-21.html> (Law School Syllabus and Provost's Syllabus Attachments)

**WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS:** According to the American Bar Association guidelines, a student should study and prepare for approximately 2.5 hours before each 75 minute class. This includes taking time *after* each class to re-read, correct, and clarify in-class notes and outlines.

**ATTENDANCE:** In accordance with SIU School of Law Rule III.5(f)-(g), students may miss up to a maximum of four (4) classes. There is no excused or unexcused absence policy at SIU.

### **Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)**

In addition to preparing students for maintaining their professional licensure and avoiding malpractice, this course prepares students for the MPRE. The MPRE is a standardized test required as a separate part of every state bar exam, administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The MPRE score from one jurisdiction may transfer to another jurisdiction if the minimum passing score is obtained. The two-hour MPRE consists of 60 multiple choice questions.

#### **Passing Minimum MPRE Scores by State**

75 - Alabama, District of Columbia, New Jersey, Virgin Islands

77 - South Carolina

79 - New Hampshire

80 - Alaska, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia

82 - Tennessee

85 - Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Washington, Wyoming

86 – California, Utah

**Students may take the MPRE while in law school.** The dates and costs below may change – please check the website <http://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre/>, as well as the official website of the state bar exam where you plan to take the exam. The test sites fill up, so register early to get the closest site. Below are the registration dates and costs. Note also the following message from NCBE about disability accommodations for the MPRE: “If you intend to apply for test accommodations for the MPRE, you must do so before registering for the exam. We encourage you to apply as soon as possible. Applications should be submitted well in advance of your desired MPRE test administration.”

<b>Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline (Fee: \$135)</b>
March 29, 2021	January 28, 2021
March 30, 2021	January 28, 2021
August 11, 2021	June 10, 2021
August 12, 2021	June 10, 2021
November 4, 2021	September 17, 2021
November 5, 2021	September 17, 2021

For state by state bar admission information, please see, e.g., <https://www.ncbex.org/jurisdiction-information/jurisdiction/il> (Illinois)

DATE	READING [also see TWEN for “Prep Questions” on each reading]	DEADLINES
WEEK 1 W 1/20	<p>The source of ethics guidance in a self-governing profession – Please read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Model Rules of Professional Conduct Preface pp. xi-xiii;</li> <li>(2) Alabama Rule of Prof. Conduct (RPC) 8.3 (see TWEN Course Materials);</li> <li>(3) <a href="https://www.sdcba.org/index.cfm?pg=Legal-Ethics-Corner-6-18-2012">https://www.sdcba.org/index.cfm?pg=Legal-Ethics-Corner-6-18-2012</a>;</li> <li>and</li> <li>(4) <a href="https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/professional_responsibility/aba_formal_opinion_478.authcheckdam.pdf">https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/professional_responsibility/aba_formal_opinion_478.authcheckdam.pdf</a></li> </ul>	