



FALL 2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number: 298-R02
Course Title: Professional Responsibility
Credit Hours: 2
Grading Mode: Letter grade
Meeting Time(s): MON 6:05-8:05P
Meeting Mode: ONLINE
Exam Time(s): DEC 5, 6:00P
Exam Mode: ON CAMPUS
Prerequisite(s): N/A
Corequisite(s): N/A
Instructor(s):
JEFF ROSENBLUM

Contact Info:
jrosenbl@gmu.edu | Please arrange office hours by email.

Reading(s) & Supplement(s):

1. Ethical Problems in the Practice of Law, Sixth Edition, Lerman and Schrag
2. ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct

Course Overview

This course provides an overview of the legal ethics rules governing lawyers. This is a required course and provides a foundation for understanding lawyers' professional responsibility and ethical obligations, as well as introducing students to the topics covered on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should have acquired/be able to:

- Be familiar with the most important Rules of Professional Conduct
- Understand and be able to identify conflicts of interest
- Understand attorneys' ethical responsibilities to clients, including confidentiality, competence and diligence

Grading Policies

Grades will be based on final examinations. Class participation MAY be used to bump up students' grades. Final exam will be long answer/identification and analysis of issues in fact patterns.

Classroom Policies

Attendance: Per AR 3-1.4, “maintenance of matriculation requires regular class preparation, participation and attendance, registration in the course of study required for the student’s program (full-time or part-time), successive registration for each fall and spring term of each academic year until study is completed, and compliance with all other relevant requirements.”

Attendance will be monitored by roll call being taken during certain classes.

Absences: Per AR 4-1.1, “if a student is absent for any reason for more than 20 percent of the sessions of a course, the student is not eligible for credit in that course. A student who is not present for at least 75 percent of a session of the course is absent from that session.”

Participation & Preparation:

Students who engage in class participation on a consistent basis may receive a bump up in their final grade.

Use of Technology & AI:

Open Use Policy: Students are encouraged to explore generative AI tools in this course, and are authorized to use AI for any purpose during this course except during any quiz or exam. Students must use AI tools responsibly, verify facts presented by AI, disclose when AI tools are used to create course work product, properly cite any AI tools utilized, and should be prepared to produce the transcript of prompts and responses upon request. Misuse will be treated as a violation of academic standards.

Class Recordings:

Prohibited. Pursuant to Academic Regulation 4-2.2, no portion of a class session or an examination may be preserved by means of a recording device such as an audio recording device or camera. Any exceptions to this policy must be expressly permitted in writing by me.

Use of Electronic Text Books During Exams:

Students are permitted one laptop computer for exam taking purposes. Additional laptop computers or any other electronic data storage devices are not allowed in an exam room, unless permitted by the course instructor's *written* exam instructions. Electronic text books (e-books) may be used during exams that are designated as open book by the instructor, and the instructor allows text books to be used during the exam and allows access to a student's computer files during the exam (open exam). E-books may not be used in exams where the instructor does not allow students to access their computer files during the exam (secure exam) even if the instructor permits access to text books. If the instructor has blocked access to the internet or computer files, you must bring a hard copy of the allowed text book(s) you wish to consult. Students will need to borrow or otherwise locate a hard copy of the e-book or print resources needed from the e-book to take into the exam room. The instructor determines the length of the examination and whether or not it is secure or open and what, if any, study materials are permitted during the exam. Students are responsible for adhering to the instructor's standards for all examinations, which are included in the examination materials.

Course Schedule & Assignments

Week 1:

Date: 8/18

Topic (s): Introduction

Introduction; Chapter 2, pp. 63-89

Week 2:

Date: 8/25

Topic (s): Bar Admission and Discipline

Chapter 1, pp. 17-40; Chapter 2, pp. 89-121

Week 3:

Date: 9/3

Topic (s): Confidentiality

Chapter 4, pp. 215-258

Week 4:

Date: 9/8

Topic (s): Relationship between Lawyers and Clients

Chapter 3, pp. 137-154; 168-176; 188-202; 207-213

Week 5:

Date: 9/15

Topic (s): Conflicts of Interest

Chapter 6

Week 6:

Date: 9/22

Topic (s): Conflicts of Interest (continued)

Chapter 7, pp. 365-387; 395-397; 412-417

Week 7:

Date: 9/29

Topic (s): Legal Fees; Lawyers' Duties to Courts

Chapter 9, pp. 463-505; Chapter 11, pp. 597-621

Week 8:

Date: 10/6

Topic (s): Lawyers' Duties to Courts (continued); Lawyers' Duties to Adversaries
Chapter 11, pp. 646-655; 587-590; Chapter 12, pp. 673-706

Week 9:

Date: 10/20

Topic (s): Advertising/ Solicitation
Chapter 13, pp. 760-772

Week 10:

Date: 10/27

Topic (s): Judicial Ethics
Chapter 10, pp. 555-586

Week 11:

Date: 11/3

Topic (s): MPRE

Week 12:

Date: 11/10

Topic (s): Catch up

Week 13:

Date: 11/17

Topic (s): Exam Review

[Student Resources](#)

[Antonin Scalia Law School Academic Regulations](#)

[GMU Common Course Policies Addendum](#)

[Mason Square Services](#)

[Mason Square Police](#)

Van Metre Hall, Room 110

Emergency - Dial 911

Escort Services - 703-993-8070

Dispatch – 703-993-2810

[Student Support and Advocacy Center \(SSAC\)](#)

Mason Square Sexual Assault Services:

Van Metre Hall, Room 222D

703-993-8186

Notice of Mandatory Reporting of Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If a student wishes to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703 -380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703 -993-2380. Students may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703 -993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

[Mason Square Clinic](#)

Van Metre Hall, Room B102

703-991-2831

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)

[Student Disability Services](#)

[Student Conduct](#)

[University Life](#)