



## FALL 2026 COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number: 298-002

Course Title: Professional Responsibility

Credit Hours: 2

Grading Mode: Letter Grade

Meeting Day(s)/Time(s): MON 6:05-8:05P

Meeting Mode: In person

Exam Day(s)/Time(s): DEC 7, 6:00P

Final Exam Mode: ON CAMPUS

Prerequisite(s): N/A

Corequisite(s): N/A

Instructor(s): Jeff Rosenblum

Contact Information: [jrosenbl@gmu.edu](mailto:jrosenbl@gmu.edu)

Office Hours: Please arrange by email

### 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

### Reading(s) & Supplement(s):

1. Ethical Problems in the Practice of Law, Seventh Edition, Lerman and Schrag
2. ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct, 2026 Edition

## 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.

Final %: 100%

## 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."

**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."

**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 the exam. Students must use AI tools responsibly, verify facts presented by AI, disclose when AI tools are used, 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.

### 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.

**Class Recordings:** Prohibited. 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.

## Course Schedule & Assignments

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated all assignments are for the Lerman & Schrag Textbook.

### Week 1:

Date: Monday, August 17

Topic: Introduction

Assignment(s): Introduction

### Week 2:

Date: Monday, August 24

Topic: Bar Admission and Discipline

Assignment(s): Chapter 1, pp. 17-40; Chapter 2, pp. 67-80; 87-114

### Week 3:

Date: Monday, August 31

Topic: Reporting Other Lawyers; Formation of Lawyer/Client Relationship

Assignment(s): Chapter 2, pp. 115-132; Chapter 3, pp. 149-166

### Week 4:

Date: Wednesday, September 9

Topic: Duties to Clients

Assignment(s): Chapter 3, pp. 166-170; 183-189; 190-194; 204-218; 223-230

### Week 5:

Date: Monday, September 14

Topic: Confidentiality

Assignment(s): Chapter 4, pp. 231-284

### Week 6:

Date: Monday, September 21

Topic: Conflicts of Interest

Assignment(s): Chapter 6

Week 7:

Date: Monday, September 28

Topic: Conflicts of Interest, continued

Assignment(s): Chapter 7, pp. 384-418; 431-437; Chapter 8, pp. 445-453

Week 8:

Date: Monday, October 5

Topic: Legal Fees; Candor

Assignment(s): Chapter 9, pp. 483-520; Chapter 11, pp. 626-634; 639-640; 644-653; 678-683; 697.

Week 9:

Date: Monday, October 19

Topic: Misc. rules; Advertising

Assignment(s): Chapter 12, 703-733; Chapter 13, pp. 804-816

Week 10:

Date: Monday, October 26

Topic: AI; Being a good person in an adversary system

Assignment(s): Chapter 13, pp. 819-823; Chapter 11, pp. 616-618; Chapter 12, pp. 768-770

Week 11:

Date: Monday, November 2

Topic: CATCH UP

Assignment(s): N/A

Week 12:

Date: Monday, November 9

Topic: MPRE Prep

Assignment(s): TBD

Week 13:

Date: Monday, November 16

Topic: Exam Review

Assignment(s): N/A

## **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](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

[Mason Square Clinic](#)

Van Metre Hall, Room B102

703-993-2831

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)

[Student Disability Services](#)

[University Life](#)