

**Introduction to the Legal Profession
Syllabus
Fall 2023**

Professors Crane, Hubbard, Medlin, Moore, and Nye

This course is an introduction to the principles of professionalism and professional identity. Students will be provided with an overview of the different roles in which lawyers serve and the different work environments in which lawyers are employed. Students will meet members of the legal profession, hear about the daily work of lawyers in different settings, receive information about handling the responsibilities of law practice, learn about the range of lawyers' duties and to whom those duties are owed, and be introduced to a framework for career competencies and professional identity that they will explore during law school and that will serve as guideposts in their development as lawyer-leaders.

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

This is a one-credit-hour course and will be graded on a pass/fail basis. There is no assigned text.

There is no final exam. Grading will be determined as explained below.

The class will have 12 sessions, which will be held on Monday afternoons from 4:20-6:00 p.m. (except for the mentoring sessions, which will meet from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.). Note that all of these classes (except the mentoring sessions) will meet for 100 minutes, sometimes with a 10-minute break partway through.

Instead of meeting during class time on September 11th, October 9th, and November 6th, you will meet for approximately 90 minutes with your professional mentors from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Your professional mentors will be assigned to you in small student groups; the contact and scheduling information will be provided to you prior to your mentoring session.

You will also have three small group meetings with a professor. These meetings will be scheduled during the lunch break on August 29, September 26, and October 24. Lunch will be provided. You will be advised later of your small group classmates and professors as well as the rooms where you will meet.

CLASS TOPICS

**Class 1
(August 16):** Welcome and Introduction to the Class and Legal Competencies -- The Importance of Preparation, Professionalism, and Civility -- A Conversation with Dean Hubbard; The Importance of Mentoring; The Importance of Academic Technology; The Importance of Career and Professional Development

**Class 2
(August 21):** Class Preparation and Case Briefing; Legal Analysis; Study Methods

**Class 3
(August 28):** The Legal Profession and Giving Back to the Community; Access to Justice

**Small Group Lunch
(August 29) (Rooms TBA)**

**Class 4
(September 11):** Mentoring Session #1 (5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)

**Class 5
(September 18):** Part 1: Technological intelligence and Innovation
Part 2: Learning from Successful Lawyer-Leaders

**Class 6
(September 25)** Career and Professional Development - Resume and Cover Letter Workshop

**Small Group Lunch
(September 26) (Rooms TBA)**

**Class 7
(October 2):** Part 1: Technology Competency and Innovation
Part 2: Learning from Successful Lawyer-Leaders

**Class 8
(October 9):** Mentoring Session #2 (5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)

**Class 9
(October 16): Career and Professional Development – Professional Identity Formation, Self-Assessment, and Growth Mindset**

**Class 10
(October 23) Academic Success-Exam Preparation**

**Small Group Lunch
(October 24) (Rooms TBA)**

**Class 11
(October 30) Learning from Successful Lawyer-Leaders**

**Class 12
(November 6) Mentoring Session #3 (5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)**

November 17 by 11 pm: Reflective Paper Due (see below)

In order to receive a passing grade in this course, you **must**

- (1) attend class as required below and engage professionally when called upon to do so in class activities and discussions.
- (2) submit a reflective paper that demonstrates your attention to advice provided by your mentors and to class discussions; **and**
- (3) attend/complete the required number of law-related activities set forth below.

COURSE ATTENDANCE

You must attend all Mentoring Sessions (Classes 4, 8, and 12): failure to do so may result in a failing grade in the course. You must also attend the Resume and Cover Letter Workshop (Class 6): failure to do so may result in a failing grade in the course. You also are expected to attend all of the other class sessions and small group lunches. *If you miss more than one of the other class sessions, you will receive a failing grade unless a waiver of the rule prohibiting excessive absences is granted by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.*

You will be required to sign in for each of the classes. Failure to sign in and to attend a substantial portion of the class will be counted as an absence. (On days in which classes have two parts, the failure to attend a substantial portion of

either portion will be treated as an absence.) Falsifying any attendance documentation in connection with the course will be reported as a possible Honor Code violation.

SUBMISSION OF REFLECTIVE PAPER

You must submit a reflective paper on Blackboard, due by 11 pm on November 17th.

For your reflective paper, you must reflect upon one or more of the topics discussed with your mentors and any connections you may draw between that discussion and information learned in other Introduction to the Legal Profession classes (excluding technology) **OR** reflect upon one or more of the topics covered in the technology presentations in or out of class and how you believe that will impact your career **OR** reflect upon conversations and discussions in our lawyer-leader presentations and how those might shape your career.

The paper must be solely your work. They must be typed, and each should contain between 400 and 800 words. Failure to submit the paper as required will result in a failing grade in the course.

LAW-RELATED ACTIVITIES

In addition to the attendance requirements and your reflective paper, to receive a passing grade in this course, you **must**

- (1) Meet with your Career & Professional Development advisor (30-minute initial career planning meeting; you will receive information about how to schedule via email from the C&PD team.)
- (2) Attend at least one of the law school's Online LegalTech Seminars. The seminars will be held online from 8 to 9 am on dates to be determined and announced. Register online for any seminar at the website – <http://law.sc.edu/legaltech>
- (3) Take the Procertas Word Contract LegalTech Assessment LTA and receive a "Qualified" or "Expert" rating in the Word Contract LTA to pass the course. **The deadline for receiving a "Qualified" or "Expert" rating in the Word Contract LTA is Friday, October 27, 2023, at 11:59 PM.**

You will find a course completion checklist on Blackboard.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this course, you should have the following:

- (1) a fundamental understanding of the role of a lawyer in an adversarial legal system, and a basic understanding of the range of professional responsibilities owed by a lawyer to various people and institutions with whom the lawyer may have contact;
- (2) an understanding of key factors that may contribute to career fulfillment and enjoyment;
- (3) a basic knowledge of the governance structure of the legal profession and sources of rules that guide a lawyer's professional behavior;
- (4) a fundamental understanding of the range of career opportunities available to a person who has earned a JD degree and of the types of work performed by lawyers in different roles, better preparing you to identify your individual strengths and career goals and to select a career path consistent with your goals;
- (5) a stronger understanding of the importance of developing various professional competencies during law school in order to best prepare you for your career;
- (6) an appreciation of the need to care for your physical and mental health in order that you might truly enjoy a long legal career; and
- (7) a stronger sense of your individual responsibility to take full advantage of the opportunity you have to study law and of the need to approach your studies with purpose and determination.