

**STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS - DEVELOPING YOUR PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY**  
**LAW 775**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW**  
**Fall 2023 – Monday at 1:55 p.m.**

Professor Susan H. Duncan

Email Address: [sduncan@olemiss.edu](mailto:sduncan@olemiss.edu)

Office Hours: I am available in my office by appointment, but most readily available by email.

1. **Course Description:** Purpose: This Professional Identity course offers a unique opportunity for incoming first-year law students to explore what it truly means to be a member of the legal profession and what their personal roles will be in the profession. Unlike traditional law school classes that focus on doctrines and skills to train students how to “think like a lawyer,” this class will introduce students to the core values and norms of the legal profession, ultimately teaching students “how to act like a lawyer.” After familiarizing themselves with the competencies legal employers and clients desire, the students will: (1) engage in self-introspection to identify their greatest strengths and skills; and (2) learn how to market those skills to future employers. This course will provide students an intimate opportunity to develop their own competencies more fully, ultimately providing them with tools for success throughout their future legal careers and life.
2. **Learning Objectives:** Maybe more so than your other courses, you’ll get out this class what you put into it. So, if you try to do the bare minimum, you’re not likely to get much out of this class. But if you spend time engaged with the material and commit yourself to be reflective, I promise you will learn important things about yourself and the practice of law that will help you academically, in your career search, and then later in practice.

After completing this course you should be able to:

- (1) identify your own strengths and motivating interests;
- (2) articulate the competencies desired by clients and legal employers;
- (3) discern how your strengths and motivating interests best meet the competencies that clients and employers want;
- (4) design your time in law school (and early years in practice) with the goal of developing those competencies; and
- (5) effectively communicate and demonstrate evidence of those competencies to potential employers.

3. Required Book

Strengths Based Leadership- ISBN: 978-1-59562-025-5. This book must be bought NEW so the code to take the assessment is not already used.

4. This 1 hour course follows the Faculty Credit Hour Policy (10/10/2018) and complies with ABA Standard 310 see <https://law.olemiss.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/revised-cred-hours-policy-102021.pdf>.

5. **Attendance:** Class will be held every Monday for 1 hr starting at 1:55 p.m.

Because this class develops key course requirements through extensive discussion, students are expected to attend all classes. Failure to attend class will adversely affect the learning process. If you are in a situation that is inhibiting your ability to attend class in person, you must let me know in advance. You will be responsible for the material missed and you will need to draft a reflection on that material and send to your TA before the next class. **Note: You are allowed to miss only one PI class per semester. Otherwise, you'll be academically withdrawn.**

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class by scanning your ID at the entrance of the room. Students are prohibited from scanning anyone else into the class.

6. **Technology and Professionalism:** This course requires you to be fully present. Laptops and cell phones can be effective learning aids but can also distract you and your classmates from the task at hand. At some points in class, we may make use of these technologies as learning resources, but unless otherwise instructed use of computers or phones is not permitted during class.
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8. **Grading:** This is pass/fail class. Your final grade is based upon you performing all the required components satisfactorily. If you complete all the required work on time, and if all your work product reflects, in my opinion, a reasonable, good-faith effort, you will pass the course. These components include:
  - Review, analyze, and complete assigned course materials by the due dates;
  - Actively participate in class and collaborate with classmates;
  - Complete the Learning Preference assessment;
  - Complete the Strength Finders assessment;
  - Interview a lawyer who practices in an area of interest to you. Write a summary, no more than two double-spaced pages, of what you learned from the interview (will be due after the winter holiday);

NOTE: Timeliness is one of the most important professional competencies for attorneys. Failure to turn a brief on time may doom your client (and result in professional sanctions against you). If you are unable to meet a scheduled deadline because of a true emergency, you must contact me in advance of the deadline. Excuses about technical difficulties, including email problems, will not be accepted. Assignments are turned in on time if they are received on time.

If any assignment is late or does not, in my opinion, reflect a reasonable, good-faith effort, you will be required to re-do the assignment within one week. If any second assignment is late or does not, in my opinion, reflect a reasonable, good faith effort, you will not pass the course.

## 9. **Diversity Statement**

The University of Mississippi embraces its public flagship mission of inspiring and educating our diverse and vibrant community where all individuals are able to intellectually, socially, and culturally thrive through transformative experiences on our campus and beyond. We do not have enough diverse lawyers or leaders. Not only should there be a moral imperative to change this, but it also makes sense from a business perspective because a diverse workforce gives firms and companies a competitive advantage. Working with diverse people and diverse perspectives is essential to becoming a leader and a lawyer. Recognizing that diversity skills should be a normative part of the value system of the practicing attorney, the ABA recently revised its accreditation standards to require law schools to “provide education to law students on bias, cross-cultural competency, and racism.” To this end, this class seeks to assist you in your journey of inquiry and self-expression while also helping you develop the skills you will need to create truly inclusive environments. At a minimum, that means we conduct ourselves in a manner that shows honor, respect, and grace to all members of this class. It does not mean we will never disagree, but we will do so without personal attacks, always remembering that the goal is to expand our knowledge. I look forward to walking with you in our shared quest to be leaders.

10. **Honesty:** According to institutional policy, ‘[t]he University is conducted on a basis of common honesty. Dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are regarded as particularly serious offenses.’ We share a responsibility to maintain academic integrity in our work and will follow the procedures outlined in law school policies for any instance of academic misconduct. Students who commit any form of academic dishonesty will face sanctions from the professor (which may include a failing grade for the course) in addition to any possible sanctions handed down by the Honor Council.
11. **Disability Services:** The University of Mississippi is committed to the creation of inclusive learning environments for all students. If there are aspects of the

instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your full inclusion and participation, or to accurate assessment of your achievement, please contact me as soon as possible. Barriers may include, but are not necessarily limited to, timed exams and in-class assignments, difficulty with the acquisition of lecture content, inaccessible web content, and the use of non-captioned or non-transcribed video and audio files. If you are registered with SDS, you must log in to your Rebel Access portal at rebel-access-portal to request approved accommodations. If you are NOT registered with SDS, you must complete the process to become registered. To begin that process, please visit our website at apply-for-services. SDS will:

1. Complete a comprehensive review to determine your eligibility for accommodations,
2. If approved, disseminate to your instructors a Faculty Notification Letter,
3. Facilitate the removal of barriers, and
4. Ensure you have equal access to the same opportunities for success that are available to all students.

If you have questions, contact SDS at 662-915-7128 or [sds@olemiss.edu](mailto:sds@olemiss.edu).

Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Law students currently registered with Disability Services should obtain a new accommodation memo each fall semester. If you have a disability for which you are considering an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Brittany Barbee, [bebarbee@olemiss.edu](mailto:bebarbee@olemiss.edu), 2066 Khayat Law Center, 662-915-6819, as early as possible in the semester.

## 12. **Counseling Services**

Many law students struggle with physical and mental health issues as they navigate busy schedules, academic pressures, and difficult life transitions. Your wellbeing is important to me, and I encourage you to prioritize it. If a health issue or life circumstance of any kind is impacting your ability to succeed in this class, please don't hesitate to contact me so we can make a plan to support your learning. I also encourage you to take advantage of campus and community resources that can help. The University Counseling Center is a professional facility offered by the University of Mississippi to assist students, faculty, and staff with many types of life stressors that interrupt day-to-day functioning, including the stressors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. They offer individual counseling, couple's counseling, group counseling, stress management, crisis intervention, assessments and referrals, outreach programs, consultations, and substance abuse services. There is no fee for currently enrolled University

students and everything you say to your counselor is confidential. You can contact the Counseling Center for information about mental health issues at <https://counseling.olemiss.edu>, [counslg@olemiss.edu](mailto:counslg@olemiss.edu), 662-915-3784, 320 Lester Hall, and <https://www.facebook.com/universitycounselingcenterolemiss/>. You can schedule an appointment or get information about appointments by calling the UCC at 662-915-3784.

Through a partnership with the University’s Department of Psychology, we are able to house an In-House Wellness Counselor dedicated to providing free counseling sessions to law students. To schedule an appointment, please call 662-915-7385 and state that you are law student seeking an appointment with Heather Clark email: [lawschoolwellness@olemiss.edu](mailto:lawschoolwellness@olemiss.edu).

### 13. Contact Information

The University must have accurate contact information, including cell phone numbers, to facilitate student communications and contract tracing. Students should check and update their University contact information available at <https://olemiss.edu/mystudentprofile>.

## SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

*The schedule below is very likely to change according to the needs of the outside guests’ schedules over the course of the semester. Please pay attention to in-class announcements and the class website.*

This course won’t require nearly as much reading as your other classes. That’s intentional. I want you to really think deeply about the material, rather than spend hours each week reading. There is reading and maybe a video or two for each class, but mostly we’re focused on class time and then reflections or activities afterwards. You will access the assignments either through JDEdge (accessed through your askedna.accesslex.org account) or the Blackboard (BB) site for this class. **All assignments should be turned in on the Blackboard site by 11:59 p.m. on the due date.**

Date	Topic	Speaker	Assignment
Pre-Orientatio n- July 5- Aug 15	Preparing for Class	JDEdge	<p><b>Due Date: Sunday, August 20 11:59 p.m.</b></p> <p>JDEdge Module 1: Introduction to Law School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Topics (1 hr, 40 mins)</li> </ul> <p>Module 2: Preparing for Class – Before, During, and After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics (Completion Required)</li> <li>o Preparing for Class (15 mins)</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Case Method: Case Reading and Briefing (15 mins)</li> <li>o Case Briefing Walk Through: (Live Session with recording that may be accessed at any time) (90 mins)</li> <li>o Practice Case Brief (60 mins)</li> </ul>
Aug 16-18	Follow Up to Preparing for Class	Small Group Discussion with Catie Hester	See orientation schedule for group assignments.
	Creating True Community	TBD	n/a
	MS Bar Duke Professionalism Program	Small group scenarios with the MS bar	Review professionalism packet provided to you.
	Oath Signing Ceremony	Judge Michael Mills	n/a
Week of August 21	Academic Skills Lab: Attending Class & Outlining	JDEdge	<p><b>Due Date: Sunday, August 27 11:59 p.m.</b></p> <p>JDEdge Module 2: Preparing for Class – Before, During, and After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics (Completion Required – 87 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Socratic Method: Engaging in Class (13 mins)</li> <li>o Notetaking: What Am I Supposed to Write Down? (8 mins)</li> <li>o Navigating Classroom Discussions (15 mins)</li> <li>o Rule Synthesis and Creating Study Materials (21 mins)</li> <li>o Class is Adjourned, Now What? (15 mins)</li> <li>o Outlining and Other Forms of Graphic Organization (15 mins)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Monday, August 21	Introduction to the class	Susan Duncan	<p><b>Due date: Sunday, August 27 11:59 p.m.</b></p> <p>1) Login to the Blackboard (BB) course: Complete Self Evaluation: Roadmap Template Component 1</p> <p>2) Read (posted in BB) <a href="#">foundations for practice whole lawyer character quotient.pdf (du.edu)</a></p>
Week August 28	Academic Skills Lab:	JDEdge	<b>Due Date: Sunday, September 3 11:59 p.m.</b>

	Effective Study and Exam Preparation		<p>JDEdge Module 3: Preparing for Exams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics (Completion Required – 100 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o From the Case Method to the Exam Method . . . (12 mins)</li> <li>o IRAC: Writing for Law School Exams (13 mins)</li> <li>o Metacognition: Figuring Out How to Study (5 mins)</li> <li>o Methods of Memorization (10 mins)</li> <li>o Effective Study Techniques (15 mins)</li> <li>o Journal Entry 3: Memorization Techniques (30 mins)</li> <li>o Practice, Practice, Practice (15 mins)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
August 28	Competencies	Susan Duncan	<p><b>Due Date: Sunday, September 10 11:59 p.m.</b></p> <p>1) Take the learning preference assessment (will be provided to you) 2) Take the motivating Interests Assessment (BB) 3) Complete the Roadmap Template Component 2 (BB)</p>
September 11	MS Bar Examiners Presentation	Jody Neyman, Will Manuel and Walt Davis	<p><b>Due Date: Sunday, September 17 11:59 p.m.</b></p> <p>Access About the Bar Exam  <a href="https://askedna.accesslex.org/learn/course/100/play/516:36/about-the-bar-exam">https://askedna.accesslex.org/learn/course/100/play/516:36/about-the-bar-exam</a> (under Bar Success Tab in AskEdna!)  Complete Worksheet: Preliminary checklist – applying for the bar exam</p>
September 18	Law as A Profession: Orientation to Career Services	Cassandra Latimer	<p><b>Due Date: Sunday, September 24 11:59 p.m.</b></p> <p>Complete Strength Finders assessment and bring results to next class. Use the code in your book to complete the assessment.</p>
September 25	Strength Finders	Haley Elizabeth McGlone	<p><b>Due Date: Sunday, October 1 11:59 p.m.</b></p> <p>Compare and reflect on your strengths (no more than 300 words) as compared to your top competencies. Are they consistent?</p>
October 2	Counseling and Your Wellbeing focus on productivity	Heather Clark	<p><b>Due Date: Sunday, October 8 11:59 p.m.</b></p> <p>1) JDEdge Module 5: watch remembering your why (video 5 min)  <a href="https://askedna.accesslex.org/learn/course/378/play/1699/Video%253A%2BRemembering%2BYour%2BWhy%253A%2BLaw%2BSchool%2Bis%2BHard%252C%2BRemember%2BWhy%2BYou%25E2%2580%2599re%2BHere">https://askedna.accesslex.org/learn/course/378/play/1699/Video%253A%2BRemembering%2BYour%2BWhy%253A%2BLaw%2BSchool%2Bis%2BHard%252C%2BRemember%2BWhy%2BYou%25E2%2580%2599re%2BHere</a></p>

			<p>2) JdEdge Module 5: Complete worksheet: Identifying and Memorializing Your Goals</p> <p>3) JDEdge Module 4 Managing the stress of law school (interactive online lesson 15 mins)</p> <p>4) JDEdge Complete Module 4 Journal Entry 5</p>
<b>WHAT TO DO WITH MY LAW DEGREE</b>			
October 9	Law as a Profession: Types of Law Practice	Attorney videos	<p><b>Due Date: Sunday, October 15 11:59 p.m.</b></p> <p>Select 6 videos to view. Post your answers to the following questions on Blackboard – Areas of Practice Questions Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which of the legal practice areas are you most interested in?</li> <li>• Why are you looking at this area of specialization?</li> <li>• How did you become interested in X practice area/subject matter?</li> </ul>
October 16	Law as a Profession: Non-Legal Careers for Lawyers	Attorney videos	<p><b>Due Date: Sunday, October 22 11:59 p.m.</b></p> <p>Select 6 videos to view. Post your answers to the following questions on Blackboard – JD Advantage Questions Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What JD Advantage job seemed most interesting to you and why?</li> <li>• How would you tell someone to answer this question if interested in pursuing a JD advantage job: Since you graduated from law school and passed the bar why not just practice law?</li> </ul>
October 23	Law as a Profession: Public Interest & Pro Bono Obligation	Attorney videos	<p><b>Due Date: Sunday, October 29 11:59 p.m.</b></p> <p>1) Select 6 videos to view. 2) Post your answers to the following questions on Blackboard – Public Interest and Pro Bono Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What role do you believe pro bono work plays in the legal profession, and have you participated in any service activities?</li> <li>• Which PI career or pro bono opportunity do you want to explore further?</li> </ul>



			<b>3) Complete Roadmap Template Component 3 (BB) – “Getting to know areas of employment that might fit me”</b>
			<b>1) Due Date: Sunday, January 21 11:59 p.m.</b>  Interview an attorney in a job you find interesting and write summary of what you learned (no more than 2 double-spaced pages). Contact me if you need suggestions on who to interview.

## STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS - DEVELOPING YOUR PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY

### THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW

Spring 2024 – Wednesdays at 1:55 p.m.

**Professor Susan H. Duncan**

**Email Address: [sduncan@olemiss.edu](mailto:sduncan@olemiss.edu)**

**Office Hours: Wednesday and Thursday 10-noon. I also am available by email.**

1. **Course Description:** This Professional Identity course offers a unique opportunity for incoming first-year law students to explore what it truly means to be a member of the legal profession and what their personal roles will be in the profession. Unlike traditional law school classes that focus on doctrines and skills to train students how to “think like a lawyer,” this class will introduce students to the core values and norms of the legal profession, ultimately teaching students “how to act like a lawyer.” After familiarizing themselves with the competencies legal employers and clients desire, the students will: (1) engage in self-introspection to identify their greatest strengths and skills; and (2) learn how to market those skills to future employers. This course will provide students an intimate opportunity to develop their own competencies more fully, ultimately providing them with tools for success throughout their future legal careers and life.

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- Attend at least one networking event (more instructions will follow);
- Participate in a mock interview;
- Interview a lawyer who practices in an area of interest to you. Write a summary, no more than two double-spaced pages, of what you learned from the interview (Due: January 21 by 11:59 p.m.).

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<b>January 24</b>	Class cancelled by university for weather	<p><b>Due Date: January 28</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Roadmap Template Component 4 “Defining my value proposition for the employment options of greatest interest to me”</li> <li>• Tape an elevator speech (no more than 90 sec)</li> </ul>
<b>January 31 &amp; February 2</b>	<p>Welcome Back and Creating a Unique Narrative</p> <p>Mock Interviews: Feb 2</p>	<p><b>Due Date: February 4</b></p> <p>Answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What two things went well in your interview? What is one thing you could improve?</li> <li>• Watch mindset video (18 mins): <a href="#">How to Develop a Growth Mindset - Bing video</a></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watch video on grit (6 minutes):  <a href="https://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duck_worth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_persistence">https://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duck_worth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_persistence</a> </li> </ul>
<b>February 7</b>	Core Practice Competency: Grit and Resilience/Growth Mindset	<p><b>Due Date: February 11</b></p> <p>Please skim this article and be ready to engage with our guest speaker on its contents. It is very good so I recommend reading it, but it is lengthy.</p> <p><a href="https://ir.law.fsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1093&amp;context=articles">https://ir.law.fsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1093&amp;context=articles</a>  Watch JD Edge Mindset Matters video (5 min)</p>
<b>February 14</b>	MS Lawyers & Judges Asst Program	<p><b>Due Date: February 18<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>Read</b>  <a href="https://www.fastcompany.com/40441365/do-these-5-emotionally-intelligent-things-within-5-minutes-of-meeting-someone?utm_source=facebook.com&amp;utm_medium=social&amp;fbclid=IwAR3AWPLH5rTqqEhB5nC1cgfjpn2-vDLR87n7s8tIJCdsyWs-iTciDAclRgs">https://www.fastcompany.com/40441365/do-these-5-emotionally-intelligent-things-within-5-minutes-of-meeting-someone?utm_source=facebook.com&amp;utm_medium=social&amp;fbclid=IwAR3AWPLH5rTqqEhB5nC1cgfjpn2-vDLR87n7s8tIJCdsyWs-iTciDAclRgs</a></p>
<b>February 21</b>	Networking	<p><b>Due Date: February 25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take Assessment of Developmental Stage of Networking Skills (BB)</li> <li>Create or improve your LinkedIn page</li> <li>Send one email to a potential employer</li> <li>Attend a networking event by end of semester</li> </ul>
<b>February 28</b>	Professional Development Plan – Besides classes what should you be doing?	<p><b>Due Date: March 3</b></p> <p>Complete reading on current issues for 3/6/24 class (will be assigned and posted on BB closer to date).</p> <p><b>Future Due Date Heads Up: March 31</b></p> <p>You will have several weeks to complete Roadmap Template Component 5: Planning My Remaining Time in Law School</p>

		Review JDEdge: Module Five Exercise: Create a Professional Development Plan
<b>March 6</b>	The Whole Lawyer: Developing Cultural Competency, Respectfulness, Compassion, Tact	<b>Future Due Date Heads Up: 3/31/24</b> You will have several weeks to participate in an activity to increase your cultural competency and write a summary about it a highlighting three takeaways (no more than 300 words)
<b>March 20</b>	Optional class: Registration Q & As -	<b>Due Date: March 19</b> Listen to Dean Cooper's Registration Video (link will be sent)
<b>March 27</b>	Meet with Faculty Member to discuss schedule related to various areas of the law	<b>Due Date: March 31</b> Roadmap Template Component 5 (BB)
<b>April 3</b>	How to be successful over your 1L summer –	<b>Due Date: April 7</b> Draft 2-3 development goals for the summer (e.g. polishing resume, joining a bar association, improving writing skills)