

Professional Responsibility
Course 6321 Section 19324
Syllabus FALL 2026
Professor Ryan Marquez
rmmarqu2@central.uh.edu
Instruction Mode: Face-to-Face
Class: Monday/Wednesday 10:30a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Course Description

If you are going to be a licensed attorney in a U.S. jurisdiction, you be using the rules of professional responsibility for your jurisdiction. This will be your first exposure to the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and other rules governing lawyers. A lawyer at all times need to analyze the legal and ethical responsibilities to their clients, tribunals, and even to third parties, yet unfortunately some attorneys fall short. Hopefully, this course will begin your thinking how to not become one of those attorneys.

Required Text

JEFFERSON ET AL., PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY: A CONTEMPORARY APPROACH 5th Edition. ISBN: 9781636595764

ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct available at:
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/publications/model_rules_of_professional_conduct/model_rules_of_professional_conduct_table_of_contents/.

Other ways to gain access to the rules will be provided.

Attendance

Regular course attendance is expected. The Law Center expects students to attend at least 80% of the scheduled classes. Failure to meet this guideline can result in being reported to the Office of Student Affairs.

Assessment

The final grade for the course is determined by assessing your knowledge of with a final exam and completion of 2 quizzes:

- Final Exam (multiple choice) 90%
- 2 Quizzes 10% (completion)

You are also expected to participate in the course. This means having completed all the reading materials and making a good faith effort on any in-class exercises. This is especially true if you are on call or on an assigned panel. I reserve the right to adjust upward

one grade increment for students exceed the participation expectations i.e. from a “B” to a “B+”. For students that fail to meet the participations expectations likewise can have their letter grade adjusted downward by one grade increment letter grade i.e. from a “B+” to a “B”.

Students will be assigned certain dates for which they are on call. On these days they are expected to be completely prepared with all the readings/assignments completed. However, all students are expected to do the readings/assignments and to participate. If this method does not produce the desired level of participation, then random calling will be implemented.

Final Exam

The final exam will be **closed book**. The exam will likely be all multiple-choice questions. I will provide further details about the final exam after the beginning of the semester. The final is 90% of your grade.

Multi-State Professional Responsibility Examination (the “MPRE”)

Most U.S. jurisdictions, including Texas, require the taking of the Multi-State Professional Responsibility Examination (“MPRE”). Even though the subject matter overlaps with this course, this course is not an MPRE preparation course. You can find out more information about taking the MPRE at <https://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre> .

Learning Outcomes

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the substantive and procedural law regulating lawyers’ conduct including advertising, attorney-client privilege, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, duties to the client, fees, obligations to third parties and the legal system, and unauthorized practice of law;
- Examine the special ethical rules applied to prosecutors and judges;
- Identify and apply the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct in preparation for taking the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam; and
- Reflect upon how to integrate conceptions of professionalism and legal ethics into your career.

Grading

This is an ordinary University of Houston Law Center course. Accordingly, Law Center policy requires the final grade average for the course be 3.20 – 3.40 on a 4.0 scale or whatever scale in effect at the time of enrollment. Your grade will also be based on class participation. I will call on students each day to discuss the assigned material if any or your cases.

Contact Information/Office Hours

My office phone is (713) 743 - 2169

My email is: rmmarqu2@central.uh.edu

My office is 343G (in the 3rd floor faculty suites)

Office Hours: Monday 1:00p.m. to 2:30 p.m. or by appointment

Feel free to stop by my office anytime, e-mail me, or to set an appointment in order to discuss the class material or anything else of interest to you.

Honor Code

The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please inquire if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.

Accommodation of Disabilities

The University of Houston Law Center strives to assure equal access and full participation by people with disabilities. If you require services because of a disability, you may notify Academic Records Coordinator in the Office of Student Services, in person in room Suite 240. This voluntary self-identification allows the University to prepare any necessary and appropriate support services to facilitate your learning.

Any requests for exam accommodations should be directed to Samantha Ary at sary@central.uh.edu or 713-743-7466 and should be made as soon as possible to allow adequate time to document and process the request.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for disabled students. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UH strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact [the Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#) (formerly the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with DISABILITIES).

Recording of Class

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Classes

TBD

Counseling Services Available to Students

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the "Let's Talk" program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus.
http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html

University Sexual Misconduct Policy

The University is committed to maintaining and strengthening an educational, working and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you have experienced an incident of discrimination or sexual misconduct, there is a confidential reporting process available to you. For more information, please refer to the University System's Anti-Discrimination Policy SAM 01.D.07 and Sexual Misconduct Policy SAM 01.D.08, available here:
<http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/uhs-policies/sams/01-general-information/index.php>
http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/_docs/sam/01/1d7.pdf(antidiscrimination)
http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/_docs/sam/01/1d8.pdf(sexual misconduct)

Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. Please note that the reporting obligations under the sexual

misconduct policy reach to employees and students. Also, as a required reporting party, Law Center employees and faculty members are not a confidential resource.

Syllabus Change

Please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through your UH email account.

Security Escorts and Cougar Ride

UHPD continually works with the University community to make the campus a safe place to learn, work, and live. Our Security escort service is designed for the community members who have safety concerns and would like to have a Security Officer walk with them, for their safety, as they make their way across campus. Based on availability either a UHPD Security Officer or Police Officer will escort students, faculty, and staff to locations beginning and ending on campus. If you feel that you need a Security Officer to walk with you for your safety please call [713-743-3333](tel:713-743-3333). Arrangements may be made for special needs.

Parking and Transportation Services also offers a late-night, on-demand shuttle service called Cougar Ride that provides rides to and from all on-campus shuttle stops, as well as the MD Anderson Library, Cougar Village/Moody Towers and the UH Technology Bridge. Rides can be requested through the UH Go app. Days and hours of operation can be found at <https://uh.edu/af-university-services/parking/cougar-ride/>.