



# Syllabus

Professional Responsibility  
Elon Law School  
Fall 2023  
Room 207  
Monday & Wednesday 9:45–10:45 am

Professor: Eric M. Fink  
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Office hours by appointment

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## Description

This course is intended to acquaint students with the organization and regulation of the legal profession, the nature of the attorney-client relationship, and the duties that attorneys owe to clients and others. Upon successfully completing the course, students should be familiar with the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct and other sources of law governing the legal profession, and be able to apply these rules to issues that arise in legal practice. The course will also help prepare students for the **Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)**, but will not cover all of the topics tested on that exam.

## Course Material

**Professional Responsibility: An Open-Source Casebook** (Fink 2023)

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Grace M. Giesel, *Mastering Professional Responsibility* (2d ed., Carolina Academic Press 2015).

## Policies

### Grading

Your grade will be based on a final examination consisting of multiple choice questions, similar in format to the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE). You will receive a copy of the Rules of Professional Conduct to use during the exam, which will otherwise be closed-book/closed-notes.

### Attendance

Elon Law School has adopted the following attendance policy for all courses:

*The Law School administers a policy that a student maintain regular and punctual class attendance in all courses in which the student is registered, including externships, clinical courses, or simulation courses. Faculty members will give students written notice of their attendance policies before or during the first week of class. These policies may include, but are not limited to: treating late arrivals, early departures, and/or lack of preparation as absences; imposing grade or point reductions for absences, including assigning a failing grade or involuntarily withdrawing a student from the class; and any other policies that a professor deems appropriate to create a rigorous and professional classroom environment.*

*In case of illness or emergency, students may contact the Office of Student and Professional Life, which will then notify the student's instructors. A student may notify the faculty member directly of a planned absence and should refer to individual faculty members regarding any policy that may apply. In the case of prolonged illness or incapacity, the student should contact the Office of Student and Professional Life.*

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## Disability Accommodations

For disability accommodation requests, contact the Elon Law **Registrar's Office**.

## Honor Code

The Law School honor code applies to all activities related to your law school study, including conduct during class and examinations.

## Schedule & Assignments

Date	Topic	Assignment
August 29	The Legal Profession & Regulation of Lawyers	Giesel, Chap. 1; Casebook, Chap. 1
August 31 & September 7	Professional Gatekeeping	Giesel, Chap. 2, 3, 38-44, 47-49; Casebook, Chap. 2
September 12	Advertising & Solicitation	Giesel, Chap. 45 & 46; Casebook, Chap. 3
September 14	The Attorney-Client Relationship	Giesel, Chap. 4, 11, & 12; Casebook, Chap. 4

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Date	Topic	Assignment
September 19	Attorney as Agent, Client as Principal	Giesel, Chap. 8 & 14; Casebook, Chap. 5
September 21	Organizational Clients	Giesel, Chap. 13; Case- book, Chap. 6
September 28	Attorney Fees & Client Property	Giesel, Chap. 9 & 10; Casebook, Chap. 7
October 3	Competence, Diligence, & Communica- tion	Giesel, Chap. 5-7, 24; Casebook, Chap. 8
October 10 & 12	Duty of Confidentialty	Giesel, Chap. 15; Case- book, Chap. 9
October 17	Attorney-Client Privilege & Work-Prod- uct	Giesel, Chap. 16; Case- book, Chap. 10
October 19 & 24	Concurrent Client Conflicts	Giesel, Chap. 17 & 18; Casebook, Chap. 11, § 1

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Date	Topic	Assignment
October 26	Conflicts Involving the Lawyer's Interests	Giesel, Chap. 21; Casebook, Chap. 11, § 2
October 31 & November 2	Former Client Conflicts & Imputation	Giesel, Chap. 19, 20, 22, & 23; Casebook, Chap. 11, §§ 3 & 4
November 7 & 9	Duties in Litigation	Giesel, Chap. 26-32; Casebook, Chap. 12
November 14	Prosecutorial Misconduct	Giesel, Chap. 33; Casebook, Chap. 13
November 16	Duties to Non-Clients	Giesel, Chap. 35-37; Casebook, Chap. 14
November 21	Final Review	
December 2	Final Exam	

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N.B. This class will not meet on Sept. 5, Sept. 26, & Oct. 5