New Course Request

Indiana University

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit □ Graduate credit □ Professional credit □

1. School/Division Liberal Arts/Political Science
2. Academic Subject Code POLS
3. Course Number Y232 (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services)
4. Instructor

5. Course Title: Professional Responsibility for Paralegals
   Recommended Abbreviation (Optional): PR for Paralegals
   (Limited to 32 Characters including spaces)

6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Spring 2007

7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3.0, or Variable from to

8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes No

9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes No

10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication: This course is a concentrated study of legal ethics from the perspective of the paralegal. The study of ethical situations, rules and model codes of the paralegal profession, conflict of interest, client confidentiality, and other ethical dilemmas. The course will present concrete, practical approach of the ethical challenges for paralegals.

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3.0, or Variable from to

12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at , or Variable from to

13. Estimated enrollment: 25, of which 0 percent are expected to be graduate students.


15. Justification for new course: Specific to paralegals enrolled in paralegal cert. program

16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes

17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.

18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant. P222-Legal Ethics

19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: [Signature]  Date: 8/23/06

Department Chairman/Division Director

Dean of Graduate School (when required): [Signature]  Date: 10/31/06

SLA Undergraduate & Standards Comm Chair

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.

University Enrollment Services Final—White: Chancellor/Vice-President—Blue: School/Division—Yellow: Department/Division—Pink: University Enrollment Services Advance—White
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARALEGALS – SPRING 2007
Y232 / XXXXX

6:00 – 9:15 p.m. Xxxx.
Instructor: Bryan R. Reed, J.D.
Office: 504E
Phone: 278-0442
E-mail: breed@iu.edu

Contact Information:
You are free to contact me by e-mail or in person throughout the semester. If you need to
schedule a specific time where we will be free from interruptions, please do not hesitate to
contact me. I will also try and be available after class.

Prerequisites:
You MUST have already taken English, W131. If you have not taken this class or one similar to
it, see me immediately.

Required Reading:
- Indiana Rules of Professional Conduct.

Course Objectives:
I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is a comprehensive survey of professional responsibility issues for paralegals, legal
assistants, and those in related industries. The main focus will include the study of the American
Bar Association's Model Code and Model Rules of Professional Responsibility and various
professional paralegal associations' codes of ethics.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:
A. The student will become acquainted with the study of legal ethics.
   Learning Outcomes: The student will:
   1. Discuss basic ethical theories including deontological and teleological theory.
   2. Define legal ethics.
   3. Review the sources of regulation of ethics in the legal field.
   4. Understand the application and impact of ethical considerations on legal
      assistants.
   5. Differentiate between personal and professional ethics.

B. The student will demonstrate a general knowledge of the Model Rules of Professional
   Responsibility.
   Learning Outcomes: The student will:
   1. Review the Model Rules and understand the broad categories of standards for
      professional conduct.
2. Understand the role and effect of the Model Rules for practitioners and their assistants in an actual jurisdiction.
3. Discuss other forms of regulation applicable to ethical considerations.
4. Address the effect of the Model Rules on paralegals and legal assistants.

C. The student will demonstrate an understanding of specific rules of professional conduct and accompanying ethical issues.
   Learning Outcomes: The student will:
   1. Define confidentiality and attorney-client privilege.
   2. Discuss conflicts of interest.
   3. Examine financial matters including billing and fee sharing/splitting.
   4. Understand the concept of zealous representation.
   5. Review the rules for advertising and solicitation.

D. The student will develop an understanding of the unauthorized practice of law.
   Learning Outcomes: The student will:
   1. Discuss what constitutes the unauthorized practice of law.
   2. Understand self-representation.
   3. Review particular issues on unauthorized practice of law relevant to paralegals and legal assistants.
   4. Examine the consequences of unauthorized practice of law.

III. EXTERNAL ASSIGNMENT:
25% of your final grade will be determined on the grade that you receive for the following final project:

Each student shall watch one of the following movies: The Firm (starring Tom Cruise), The Rainmaker (starring Matt Damon), Class Action (starring John Travolta) or My Cousin Vinny (starring Danny DeVito) and then write a three to five page paper examining the ethical, legal dilemmas/issues raised in each movie as they relate to the professional rules of conduct.

While the making and enjoying of movies often require that we suspend our disbelief and accept as appropriate the actions of the characters portrayed therein, it can serve as a real gauge for both you as a student of the law and I as an instructor of the law if you are able to successfully figure out where Hollywood and the real world differ!

IV. METHODOLOGY:
A. Teaching Methods
   1. Lecture
   2. Socratic Questioning
   3. Group Discussion & Projects

B. Evaluation Procedures
   Chapter Exams (4 total): 75%
   Final Project: 25%
**Reading:** You are expected to keep up with all reading assignments

**Cheating and Plagiarism:**
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. All work submitted must be your own. All outside sources must be properly cited. Any person caught plagiarizing will receive a failing grade for the course. If in doubt, cite! If you are caught, the student will be reported to the Department Chair and disciplinary action will be initiated. In addition, a failure to understand the meaning of the word "plagiarism" is not considered a defense.

**Modifying the Syllabus and dates:**
The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus. The dates on the syllabus are a guideline. If necessary, we will modify them. Students will be responsible for changes to the syllabus as announced in class.

**Legal Disclaimer:** Everything that is discussed in the classroom or individually with the instructor is strictly for educational purposes only. The instructor will not and does not provide legal advice to any student. Nor shall any comments from the instructor be considered legal advice.

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