SYLLABUS FOR PROFESSOR GARTNER’S COURSE
IN LAWYERS’ ETHICS

MAURICE A. DEANE SCHOOL OF LAW (HOFFTRA LAW)

Section: Spring 2017
Room: Koppelman Hall 0205
Professor: Kenneth L. Gartner
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Course Materials


Purpose of the Course: The rules governing lawyers’ professional conduct are studied through the ethics rules, lectures, text, cases, problems and class discussion. Adherence to the Rules of Professional Responsibility is necessary for lawyers to maintain their licensure to practice and good standing in the profession. An appreciation of the philosophical underpinnings and context within which the Rules have been and are being enacted and amended, relying in part upon the background provided by the path breaking work of the late former Hofstra Law School Dean and Distinguished Professor Monroe Friedman, will aid understanding, and will be addressed, as will the role of the Rules within the overall regulatory setting governing the practice of law in New York.

Communications: The best way to communicate with me is by email. I will try to get back to you within 24 hours. While I do not maintain regular office hours, if you need to speak with me in person, we can set up an appointment either before or after class, or at my office in Mineola.
**Classes:** 6:10 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays: January 12, 19, February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 20, 27.

**Attendance and Preparation:** Participation in class will be considered, and attendance will be taken. Participation may raise your grade by one half a grade. More than two unexplained absences may result in the lowering of your grade.

Discussions in class will primarily center on analysis of the problems set forth in the Lerman & Schrag text, and raised during the lectures themselves. Your preparation for the final examination will to a great extent consist of your engagement and participation in these discussions. *When you come to class, you should have read each cited rule and problem in the assigned chapter(s), and be prepared when called upon to give your analysis of the problem, and your response to the questions about the problem set forth in the text.*

Sometimes you can’t avoid missing a class. If you know in advance that you will be missing a class for a compelling reason, or if you have missed a class due to illness or emergency, please send me an e-mail, briefly explaining the situation.

It is better to come to class late, or leave early, than not come at all. If circumstances require you may feel free to walk in late, or leave early, as long as you do not abuse this privilege.

**Examination and Grades:** The course will be graded on the regular A-B-C grading scale. Unless the enrollment for this class is 25 or less, the Mandatory Curve Grade Table and the Target Grade Table, set forth at pp. 21-22 of the 2016-2017 Maurice A. Deane Law School at Hofstra University Student Handbook, will govern the distribution of grades in this class. Even if the enrollment is of 25 or fewer students, the Target Grade Table will be utilized as a rough guide to the distribution of grades.

Except as noted above, re class participation, the grade will be based on a multiple-choice final exam.

**Schedule:**

Week 1: Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 2: Chapter 2

Week 3: Chapters 3

Week 4: Chapter 4

Week 5: Chapter 5

Week 6: Chapter 6
Week 7: Chapter 7
Week 8: Chapter 8
Week 9: Chapter 9
Week 10: Chapter 10
Week 11 Chapters 11
Week 12: Chapter 12
Week 13: Chapter 14
Week 14: Catch-up and pre-examination review

Final Examination: TBA during Final Examination period