



Gyanmanjari
Innovative University

Course Syllabus

Gyanmanjari Institute of LAW

Semester-5 (LL.B)

Subject: Professional Ethics and Professional Accountancy- LAWLL15527

Type of course: Compulsory Clinical Course

Prerequisite:

Students should have a basic understanding of the legal system, court structure, and fundamental laws like constitutional, contract, and procedural law. Awareness of the roles of advocates, judges, and client-lawyer relationships is also required. Basic legal reasoning and communication skills help in understanding ethical issues in practice.

Rationale:

Professional Ethics is essential to ensure integrity and discipline in legal practice. It guides advocates in maintaining proper conduct with clients, courts, and society. The subject promotes accountability and prevents unethical practices, ensuring fairness and trust in the justice system.

Teaching and Examination Scheme:

Teaching Scheme			Credits	Examination Marks			Total Marks
CI	T	P	C	Theory Marks		CA	150
				SEE	MSE	ALA	
05	01	00	06	100	30	20	

Legends: CI-Classroom Instructions; T- Tutorial; P- Practical; C- Credit; SEE- Semester End Evaluation; MSE- Mid Semester Examination; CA-Continuous Assessment; ALA- Active Learning Activities.



Course Content:

Sr. No.	Course Content	Hrs.	% Weight age
1	Legal Profession: - History, Importance and Development of Legal Profession in India - Distinction between Business and Profession - History of Legal Profession - Importance of Legal Profession - Why Noble Profession? - Ethics and Code of Conduct of Legal Profession - Seven Lamps of Advocacy and meaning thereof - Hoffman's 50 Resolutions for lawyer and importance thereof - Ten Commandments for lawyers - Bench-Bar Relations	15	20
2	Advocates' Act, 1961: - History and enactment of act - Admission, Enrolment, of Advocate - Who can be admitted as advocate on a State Roll - Certificate for Enrollment - Disqualification for enrollment as an Advocate - Duties of an Advocate - Towards client - Towards courts - Towards Judges - Towards his colleagues - Rights and privileges of Advocates - Rules relating to dress code of an Advocate - Accountancy for Lawyers : General Principles	15	20



3	Contempt of Court and practice: • Contempt of Courts Act, 1971; • Contempt of Court: meaning and nature • Distinction between Contempt of Court and Professional Misconduct • Categories of contempt under the Act: Civil and Criminal Contempt – Distinction • Civil Contempt: Essentials • Criminal Contempt: Essentials • Contempt of Court within the court and outside the court • Defenses available to the condemner: • Defenses in Civil Contempt and in Criminal Contempt • Remedies against Punishment in contempt • Penalty provisions for the Contempt of Court under the Contempt of Courts Act • Contempt jurisdiction of High Courts and the Supreme Court under the Constitution of India • Contempt jurisdiction of the Subordinate Courts	15	20
4	Bar Council • Bar Council of India : Organization • Various Powers and functions of the Bar Council of India • Rules relating to dress code of an Advocate • State Bar Council : • Establishment, organization, • Powers and functions of State Bar Council • Various committees of State Bar Council and functions thereof • Executive Committee • Disciplinary Committee • Welfare Committee • Enrolment Committee • Bench –Bar Relations	15	20



5	Professional misconduct & Important Cases and Selected Opinions of the Disciplinary Committee: • Professional Misconduct : Meaning • Professional Misconduct by advocate • Procedure for filing complaint against lawyer for professional misconduct • Punishment for Professional Misconduct • The body or authority empowered to punish for professional or other misconduct • Complaint against advocates and procedure to be followed by the Disciplinary Committee • Remedies against the order of punishment -review & appeal • Important Cases of the Apex Court relating to Professional Misconduct of lawyers • 50 selected opinions of the Disciplinary Committee • Important cases of the Supreme Court relating to the Contempt of Court	15	20
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Continuous Assessment:

Sr. No	Active Learning Activities	Marks
1	Case Study on Professional Misconduct and Ethics: Students will analyze landmark cases related to professional misconduct of advocates, contempt of court, and disciplinary actions by Bar Councils in the format which Faculty provides. They will identify ethical violations, applicable provisions under the Advocates Act, 1961, and suggest appropriate professional conduct expected in such situations. The activity develops critical thinking on ethical decision-making in legal practice. Students have to prepare a report in PDF format and upload it on GMIU Web Portal.	10
2	Debate Activity on Professional Ethics Faculty will provide a topic for the debate and students will participate in a structured classroom debate based on principles of professional ethics, Advocates Act, 1961, and duties of advocates towards clients and courts. One group will support the topic provided while the other will be against it. Students must justify their arguments using ethical principles, case laws, and rules of professional conduct. Students have to Upload it on GMIU Web Portal.	10
Total		20

List of Suggested Tutorials:

Sr. No	Suggested Tutorials	Credits Hours
1	Introduction to Professional Ethics (Video Lecture): A short video will be shown by the faculty to the students which will help them understand the meaning and importance of professional ethics and distinguish it from personal morals. Explain how ethical conduct builds trust, integrity, and professionalism.	2
2	Qualities of a Good Advocate (Poster Preparation): Students shall design an attractive poster highlighting the qualities, skills, and ethical values expected from a successful advocate. The poster should include illustrations, quotations, and key professional values such as honesty, integrity, communication, and legal knowledge. Students shall explain their posters before the class.	1



3	Procedure of Enrolment of Advocates (Short film): Students shall study the procedure relating to enrolment as an advocate through a short film which will be screened in the class by the faculty. They should identify whether the applicant is eligible under the Advocates Act and justify their answer with relevant legal provisions. The findings should be submitted in the form of a short report in a PDF form	2
4	Confidentiality in the Legal Profession (Group Discussion): Understand the duty of advocates to maintain client confidentiality. Discuss the ethical and legal consequences of breaching confidentiality.	2
5	Importance of Ethics in a Professional Career (Case Study): Explain the role of ethics in achieving professional credibility, accountability, and long-term success. Understand its impact on public confidence.	1
6	Debate on Workplace Ethics and Decision Making: Students will participate in teams of 2 students in each team. Each team will examine the ethical dilemmas faced in professional life and explain the importance of fairness, honesty, and responsibility in decision-making.	2
7	Landmark Case Presentation: Student shall select one landmark case or an important opinion of the Disciplinary Committee relating to professional misconduct. They should prepare a PowerPoint presentation explaining the facts, legal principles, decision, and its significance for the legal profession. The presentation should conclude with the lessons that future advocates can learn from the case.	1
8	Debate on Fees and Fair Practice: The faculty will discuss with the students whether legal fees should be fair and transparent. Examine ethical issues relating to professional fees and client interests.	1
9	Preparation of a Chart on Duties towards Clients and Courts: Prepare a comparative table of advocates' duties towards clients and courts. Understand how these duties uphold the dignity of the legal profession.	1
10	Role Play on Professional Misconduct: Understand the concepts of Students shall perform a role play by forming a group of 4 students in each group depicting a situation involving alleged professional misconduct by an advocate. Other students shall act as members of the Disciplinary Committee to hear the matter and deliver a decision. The activity helps students understand ethical responsibilities in legal practice.	2
Total		15



Suggested Specification table with Marks (Theory): 100

Distribution of Theory Marks (Revised Bloom's Taxonomy)						
Level	Remembrance (R)	Understanding (U)	Application (A)	Analyze (N)	Evaluate (E)	Create (C)
Weightage	20%	20%	30%	10%	20	–

Note: This specification table shall be treated as a general guideline for students and teachers. The actual distribution of marks in the question paper may vary slightly from above table.

Course Outcome:

After learning the course, the students should be able to:	
CO1	Explain the concepts, history, significance, ethical principles, and professional standards governing the legal profession in India.
CO2	Apply the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961, Bar Council Rules, and the Code of Professional Ethics to evaluate the rights, duties, responsibilities, and conduct of advocates. .
CO3	Analyze the legal framework relating to contempt of court, professional misconduct, and disciplinary proceedings, and distinguish between ethical and unethical professional practices.
CO4	Evaluate the role and functions of the Bar Council of India, State Bar Councils, and the Bench-Bar relationship in maintaining professional discipline, judicial administration, and the rule of law.
CO5	Demonstrate professional ethics, legal reasoning, communication, and advocacy skills while addressing ethical dilemmas, client responsibilities, judicial obligations, and professional decision-making in legal practice.

Instructional Method:

The course delivery method will depend upon the requirement of content and the needs of students. The teacher, in addition to conventional teaching methods by black board, may also use any tools such as demonstration, role play, Quiz, brainstorming, MOOCs etc.



From the content 10% topics are suggested for flipped mode instruction. Students will use supplementary resources such as online videos, NPTEL/SWAYAM videos, e-courses. The internal evaluation will be done on the basis of Active Learning Assignment.

Practical/Viva examination will be conducted at the end of semester for evaluation of performance of students in the laboratory.

Reference Books:

- [1] Sree Chandran, K. (2021). Professional ethics: A textbook for university students (3rd ed.). Eastern Book Company.
- [2] Govindarajan, M., Natarajan, S., & Senthilkumar, V. S. (2022). Professional ethics and human values (2nd ed.). PHI Learning Pvt. Ltd.
- [3] Jain, A. K. (2020). Advocacy and professional ethics (5th ed.). Central Law Publications.
- [4] Universal Law Publishing. (2023). The Advocates Act, 1961 (Latest ed.). Universal Law Publishing.

