

**Professional Foundations**  
**Professor Julia Ernst, Course Coordinator**  
**First Class Reading Assignment**

Welcome to Professional Foundations! I extend this greeting on behalf of the entire faculty team who will be teaching this course.

Thank you very much to everyone for submitting your approved legal resume and completed Roadmap assignments on Blackboard. These documents will form the basis for your meetings with legal professionals in Professional Foundations later this semester.

Our first session of ProfFound is on Tuesday, January 12 from 3:00 to 4:50 p.m. via Zoom. You will find the Zoom link on the Professional Foundations Blackboard site under “ProfFound Syllabus and Zoom Link.” Dean Michael McGinniss will join us for our first class session, titled *Becoming a Self-Reflective Lawyer*. We are providing the following information to help you prepare for this class.

(1) **Blackboard.** You should have already registered for Professional Foundations on Campus Connection, which enables you to access to the course’s Blackboard site. The faculty team will use Blackboard as the main communications center for the course, and you are responsible for checking it each week for the latest assignments and updates. You will also submit your written course assignments through Blackboard.

(2) **Syllabus and Mini-Primer.** The syllabus contains critical details about the course. Please review the syllabus carefully and be sure to note, among other things, the specific attendance rules, as well as the assignment requirements and deadlines. Another important document—the *Mini-Primer on Successful Small Group Discussions*—offers guidance on the skills necessary for successful professional discourse both in and outside of the classroom. You will find both of these documents on Blackboard under the “Weekly Session Materials” tab.

(3) **Week 1 Reading Requirements.** Please read the syllabus and *Mini-Primer*, in addition to reading and completing the other materials required for that class. You will find the materials posted on Blackboard in the Week 1 folder under the “Weekly Session Materials” tab, located in the green field on the left side of the Blackboard page, including the following documents:

- The Week 1 Reflection Questions Sheet (including the Week 1 Interactive Exercise and Worksheet)
- Perry’s article *Thinking Like a Professional*
- Floyd’s article *Lost Opportunity: Legal Education and the Development of Professional Identity*

(4) **Week 1 Interactive Exercise.** The Interactive Exercise (pages 3-9 of the Reflection Questions Sheet) will be the centerpiece of our first class session. The exercise poses two hypotheticals and has a worksheet to be completed before class. Please fill in the worksheet, bring it to class, and be prepared to participate in the discussion. You do not need to print out the materials for this session, but be sure to read everything carefully and be prepared to discuss them.

(5) **The Week 1 Essay**. As we will further explain in class, you can also find the Week 1 Essay assignment on Blackboard (under "The Four Required Assignments" tab). This is the first of four written course assignments that you must submit via Blackboard. The Week 1 Essay is due on **Monday, January 18 by 12:00 noon**.

We really look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of winter break, and a very happy new year to you all!

With warmest regards,

Prof. Ernst

Course Coordinator, on behalf of the ProfFound Faculty Team