COURSE OVERVIEW: What does it mean to become a lawyer? Lawyers have certain traits—ways of thinking, competence (skills and judgment), and a commitment to codes professional conduct—that law students must learn. The framework for this course includes the key topics in the law governing lawyers’ conduct: national codes of ethics and laws that regulate lawyers.

This course goes beyond the ethics rules *per se*, however, to address many traits of good lawyering. In particular, the course is designed to expand students’ repertoire of legal thinking and communication skills. Students will engage closely with facts, use narrative-style thinking as well as traditional legal analysis, and learn to be aware of their thinking processes. Lawyers are not just analytical machines. To accomplish these goals, most classes will focus on detailed, practice-based problems in small and large group discussions. Because writing is central to legal learning, there will be four short papers (2-4 pages), and regular short writings to prepare for class discussions.

Our overall goal is to become “reflective practitioners.” Lawyers who integrate specialized knowledge and sharp analytical thinking with broader types of legal reasoning, practice skills, keen moral imagination and the personal courage required to act ethically.