

**LGLA 2337 - Mediation
Course Syllabus**

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CLASS TIME: Monday/Wednesday; 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
CLASSROOM: LC121/LC123

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course presents the fundamental concepts of mediation and alternative dispute resolution emphasizing the paralegal's role.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course will examine the theory, principles, procedure, ethics and skills necessary for the use of mediation as a method of conflict resolution. This course is conducted in coordination with the Lubbock County Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) and Texas Tech University School of Law.

Students successfully completing this course will gain a thorough understanding of and develop strong communication skills, including the ability to explain, listen, question and facilitate discussion, the practical skills necessary to maximize the potential for successful mediation, including the ability to delineate the interests of parties and prioritize resolution through creative problem-solving and the ability to put in writing any agreements reached, negotiation skills, and understanding of other's negotiation styles and approaches to resolving disputes, knowledge of the substantive body of law applicable to mediation an understanding of mediation theory and practice, including ethical issues that arise in the context of mediation practice, an understanding of the advantages and limitations of mediation as a method of dispute resolution to better advise future clients about the best method to resolve a dispute and represent clients effectively in mediation, an ability to reflect upon one's own experiences as a mediator, critique one's own professional performance, and be a self-directed learner.

The course also includes an additional **optional** practice component in which students complete 15 hours of "field work," which consists of observing and conducting actual mediations through the ODR. It is intended that completion of the course and field work will qualify as "40 hours of basic mediation training" as required by the Texas Alternative Dispute Resolution Act, Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, § 154.001 et. seq. (1987) entitling the student to receive a certificate as a "trained mediator."

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: *The Practice of Mediation: A Video Integrated Text, 3rd Edition* by Frenkel, Douglas.; Wolters Kluwer Publishers; ISBN: 978-1-4548-7023-4.

GRADING: Two (2) examinations (mid-term and final) will be given during the semester. Each examination will count 30% of the final grade. No make-up examinations will be given. Class assignments, including role-playing exercises, will count 40% of the final grade. Grade equivalents: 90 to 100% = A; 80 to 89% = B; 70 to 79% = C; 60 to 69% = D; Below 60% = F.

ASSIGNMENTS: Late class assignments will not be accepted without prior approval (before the due date). Assignments will not be accepted by e-mail. All assignments must be typed unless otherwise instructed. Students must maintain academic integrity in all assignments – "copying and pasting" from other sources (e.g. the Internet, other students, etc.) is plagiarism and will be grounds for dismissal from the course.

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. Students are expected to arrive at class in a timely manner. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class period. Late arrivals (more than 10 minutes) may be counted as absent for that class. A student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive. "Excessive" absences means more than two (2) absences for any reason. **Students absent from more than 2 classes will not be eligible to receive a certificate for completion of the 40 hours of basic mediation training.**

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date (the 12th class day), as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: Paralegals are legal professionals, and as such, must maintain a professional attitude and demeanor. Spirited discussion is encouraged, but respect for the opinion of others is required. All students are expected to be prepared for every class. Disruptive or unprofessional behavior in class is grounds for a student to be removed from the classroom and dropped from the course without notice. Students are referred to the SPC Student Guide for more information about the policies and procedures concerning student conduct which are incorporated herein by reference. Student personal conduct must also comply with all Lubbock Center guidelines.

CELL PHONES: Cell phones must be turned off before entering the classroom. The professor reserves the right to answer a cell phone (on speaker) that rings during class time. "Texting" (text messaging) during class is prohibited. Violation of this policy may result in the student being removed from the classroom and dropped from the course. Use of cell phones for class purposes may be permitted with instructor approval.

COMPUTERS: Laptop computers may be used during class for class-related purposes only and provided computer speakers are muted. Wireless internet access is provided at SPC for education-related purposes only. Paralegal Studies students also have access to computers available in LC109. All student work must be saved on a removable storage device, e.g. a flash drive, and not on an SPC computer.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

ADA STATEMENT: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at the Lubbock Center, the Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center Building 8: 806-716-4675, Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529.

SCANS Competencies: C1, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9, C11, C12, C13, C14 C15, C18, C19
Foundation Skills: F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17

Explanations of the codes are posted in the classroom.