

**CLIENT INTERVIEWING AND COUNSELING
(SPRING 2018)**

Monday 5:30-7:30pm

Room: TBA

Course #6218

Professor: Daniel Dib

Additional Professor: TBA

Office Hours: You may schedule an appointment with me anytime depending on availability. Please contact me to arrange a time and place for the meeting.

Phone/Email: Professor Dib: (832) 746-6444; danieltdib@gmail.com

Course Description: The course will emphasize a “client-centered” approach to interviewing and counseling techniques. It will touch on the major aspects of the attorney-client relationship, including: (1) the initial client interview; (2) the ethics involved when dealing with clients; (3) case analysis, development and strategy incorporating the client’s input and expectations; (4) preparing the client for negotiations, depositions, settlement discussions or trial; and (5) terminating the attorney-client relationship. All students will engage in mock interviews and counseling sessions throughout the semester. The professors and classmates will provide constructive feedback after each session that can and should be incorporated into future practice sessions.

Attendance: You should attend all class sessions and arrive on time. The UHLC attendance policy requires attendance at 80% of all scheduled (or makeup) classes, or a student risks being dropped from the course. Attendance may be taken at each class.

Please note that you are responsible for managing your absences from class and ensuring that your total number of absences does not exceed 20%.

Grading: Assignments may be emailed by the assigned due date or they may be turned into the Blakely Advocacy Office. Additional specific instructions regarding how to turn in each assignment will also be provided in class. Your grade will be based on the following components:

20% Assignment 1

30% Assignment 2

40% Assignment 3

10% Class participation

Textbook: No required textbook. Students will receive handouts and other appropriate materials provided by the professor.

Optional Reading: Binder, David A., Paul Bergman, Susan C. Price and Paul R. Tremblay, *Lawyers as Counselors: A Client-Centered Approach*, Thomson West, 2nd ed., 2004

Herman, G. Nicholas and Jean M. Cary, *A Practical Approach to Client Interviewing, Counseling, and Decision-Making: For Clinical Programs and Practical Skills Courses*, Matthew Bender, 2009

Krieger, Stefan and Richard Neumann, Jr., *Essential Lawyering Skills: Interviewing, Counseling, Negotiation and Persuasive Fact Analysis*, Aspen Publishers, 4th Edition, 2011

Shaffer, Thomas L. and James R. Elkins, *Legal Interviewing and Counseling in a Nutshell*, Thomson West, 2005

CLASS SCHEDULE

(Subject to modification)

Class 1 (January 15): Introduction

Class 2 (January 22): Discussion: The Initial Client Interview; Engagement Letters; Non-Representation Letters

Class 3 (January 29): Continue Discussion: The Initial Client Interview; Engagement Letters; Non-Representation Letters

Graded Assignment 1 will be assigned in class.

Class 4 (February 5): Practice Client Interviews

Class 5 (February 12): Discussion: Ethics of Dealing with Clients

Class 6 (February 19): Discussion: The Different Types of Clients You May Encounter

Class 7 (February 26): Discussion: Case Development and Strategy / Managing Your Client's Expectations

Graded Assignment 2 will be assigned in class.

Class 8 (March 5): Discussion: Dealing with Problem Clients; "Counseling" Your Client; Delivering Bad News

SPRING BREAK (March 15)

Class 9 (March 19): Discussion: Preparing Your Client for Negotiations, Settlement Discussions or Mediation

Class 10 (March 26): Discussion: Preparing Your Client for Deposition and Trial

Class 11 (April 2): More Practice Client Interviews

Graded Assignment 3 will be assigned in class.

Class 12 (April 9): Discussion: Terminating the Attorney-Client Relationship

Class 13 (April 16): Wrap-up Discussion

Class 14 (April 23): Final Class