

**Florida A & M University
College of Law
Course Syllabus - Mediation
Fall Semester, 2016
Professor John Paul Jones**

Course Number: 5312

Class Number: 3942

Section Number: 301

Scheduled Meeting Time: 2:30 – 3:45 PM

Scheduled Meeting Day: Tuesday & Thursday

Course Credit: 3 Semester Hours

Class Room Location: Room 385

Course Objectives:

1. Understand the sources of conflict and the fuel that keeps it going.
2. Understand the range of ADR processes for resolving conflict and how mediation fits among the various processes.
3. Understand the various models of mediation and of facilitative mediation in particular.
4. Understand the principles of interest-based bargaining and the win-win approach to the resolution of conflict.
5. Understand the role of the mediator in the mediation process.
6. Understand the roles of the parties in the mediation process.
7. Understand the role of the attorney in the mediation process and the differences between the attorney's role in mediation and the litigation process.
8. Understand the critical importance of confidentiality as it relates to mediation.
9. Understand the basic provisions of court-connected mediation in Florida and of the rules governing such mediation.
10. Understand the importance of clear and effective communication in the mediation process.
11. Understand the importance of the skill of listening in the mediation process and in particular the importance of non-judgmental listening.
12. Develop improved skills in listening and communicating.
13. Acquire the skills necessary to conduct mediation in conformance with the facilitative model of mediation.
14. Understand the necessity of mediator impartiality in the mediation process.

Required Books:

The Practice of Mediation – A Video-Integrated Text. Second Edition, Walters Kluwer Law & Business: New York, NY 2012. ISBN 978-1-4548-0219-8. Note that you are required to have a text that includes access to the video clips on which much of the textual material is based.

Required Reading:

Because of the nature of studying and understanding mediation and its related concepts there is not necessarily a correlation between the number of text pages covered and the amount of class time required for exploration of the principles. Therefore, the reading schedule for the semester will be listed by intended weekly coverage. If there are any changes necessitated in that schedule an announcement will be made in class. Class coverage of all of the material is not possible. However you will be responsible for the material in the text, whether covered in class or not.

The text includes access to online videos, watching of which will be required. During the semester additional written materials will be distributed. Also, there will be exercises and role-plays in class so that the skills based concepts can be internalized.

Absences - pay particular note:

Although COL (ABA) guidelines would permit 6 absences during the semester, in **this class, you are limited to 3 absences**. The sequential nature of understanding the mediation process and developing the skills it requires make it important that you understand one aspect in order to understand the next phase. I strongly encourage you to strive for 100% attendance so that you can maximize your understanding of the process and the development of your personal skills.

Grading:

Grading will be based on participation in class discussions, class exercises and role plays, and any written assignments given.

Rules of the Classroom:

1. The Student Handbook provides that "Eating food is prohibited in all classrooms. Only bottled water will be permitted in the classrooms." (p. 3)
2. Gum chewing in class is prohibited, as it is a habit that is inconsistent with an aspiring professional.
3. Cell Phones, Pagers, Computers, iPads, and all other electronic devices are to be turned off prior to the beginning of class and remain off for the duration of class.
4. Recording devices are not permitted.
5. Punctuality is essential. Most of the time there will be participative class discussions, exercises or role plays. Late arrival may result in being considered absent for the day. You should govern yourself accordingly.

RELEVANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES

University's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement:

Individuals who need a reasonable accommodation must notify and send appropriate documentation to the Center for Disability Access and Resources (CeDAR), 667 Ardelia

Court, Tallahassee, FL 32307; ATTN Dr. Dannette Saylor. Fax: (850) 561-2513. Phone: (850) 599-3180

College of Law's Non-discrimination Policy Statement:

Florida A&M University College of Law does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veteran's Readjustment Assistance Act in the administration of its education policies, admissions and placement policies, and other school administered programs.

First Week Reading: pp. 1-20 of text.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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