

Contact Information:

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Required Texts:

1. Suzanne McCorkle and Melanie J. Reese, *Mediation Theory and Practice*, Third Edition
2. Roger Fisher and William Ury, *Getting to Yes*, Third Edition.

Course Objective: This course will focus on the theories and skills involved in the mediation process. Students will observe Harvard University mediation videos. Students will practice dispute resolution and mediation skills and will use these skills in various role play exercises, simulation activities, and interactive lectures. The class will focus on both the perspective of the neutral party/mediator working with parties who are trying to resolve a dispute in mediation and the attorney representing the client. The course will also address the roles of bias, emotions, gender, race, and culture in mediation, as well as ethical issues.

Learning Outcomes: During the course and by the end of the course, students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic principles of negotiation and mediation;
- Learn and practice dispute resolution skills and apply these skills in regular role play exercises;
- Learn the basic similarities and differences between negotiation, litigation and mediation, and be able to discuss the pros and cons of each method;
- Be able to apply the course information and negotiation/mediation skills learned to real world situations; and
- Have a greater appreciation and understanding of the roles bias, emotions, gender, and culture play in negotiation and mediation.

Course Policies: Regular and timely attendance and completion of all reading assignments are mandatory in order to receive full credit for this class. **Active participation is essential in order to learn the skills and concepts that make up this course. You are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled classes.** Excused absences will be granted in the case of a medical or family emergency, illness, or religious holiday. It is the student's responsibility to inform us in advance if you will be absent from class. It is also the student's responsibility to collect information distributed during your absence. All assignments must be submitted on time. Any assignments submitted late will result in a significant impact on the grade. Because the course is interactive and experiential, we may alter the syllabus to reflect class interests and to enhance learning opportunities.

Writing Assignments: Each student will be required to keep and bring to class a typed conflict resolution journal for the first six classes. The journal entries should be concise and thoughtful rather than rambling. Each of the first six weeks you will be required to make at least one entry that is relevant to topics discussed during a previous class. The journal entry may be in the form of an insight that you have gained regarding a specific issue. All six entries will be collected in the seventh week and one entry will be selected at random and graded, which will be the same entry for all students. A mediated agreement will be drafted by the students based on an in-class role play and will be graded. **A final 10-page research paper will be due on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 no later than noon, submitted by email. Final paper outlines must be submitted in class by Wednesday, March 26, 2025.**

Grading: Grading will be based upon class attendance and participation (30%), a journal entry randomly selected from six required entries (15%), a mediated agreement (15%), and a final research paper (40%).

SPRING 2025 SYLLABUS

<u>Class #1:</u> January 22, 2025	<i>Mediation Theory & Practice</i> , Chapter 1
<u>Class #2:</u> January 29, 2025	<i>Getting to Yes</i> , Chapters 1 through 5
<u>Class #3:</u> February 5, 2025	Handouts
<u>Class #4:</u> February 12, 2025	<i>Mediation Theory & Practice</i> , Chapters 2, 4 and 6
<u>Class #5:</u> February 19, 2025	<i>Mediation Theory & Practice</i> , Ethical Considerations and Tactical Preparations, Chapters 3 and 5 Mediation Observation Week, <u>no class</u> on February 19 due to watching Harvard mediation videos
<u>Class #6:</u> February 26, 2025	<i>Mediation Theory & Practice</i> , Chapter 7
<u>Class #7:</u> March 5, 2025	<i>Mediation Theory & Practice</i> , Chapter 8 All journal entries due by start of class.
<u>Spring Break:</u> March 12, 2025	NO CLASS – Spring Break
<u>Class #8:</u> March 19, 2025	<i>Mediation Theory & Practice</i> , Chapter 9

Class #9: March 26, 2025

Mediation Theory & Practice, Chapter 10

**Home Away Mediated Agreement Due by March 29, 2025
at Midnight**

Class #10: April 2, 2025

Mediation Theory & Practice, Chapter 11

Final Paper Outlines due before class

Class #11: April 9, 2025

Getting to Yes, Chapters 6 through 8

Class #12: April 16, 2025

Court Connected Mediation/Policy Concerns, Handouts

Class #13: April 23, 2025

Ethical Issues, Handouts

April 30, 2025

Final paper due by noon