

Course Syllabus (pdf):

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF LAW

COURSE SYLLABUS

LAW B 533 Winter 2020

Interviewing and Counseling for Lawyers

January 8 - March 11, 2020

Wednesday 3:30 - 5:20 PM, William H. Gates Hall, Room: 138

Instructor: Anna Endter

Office Location: William H. Gates Hall, Dean's Suite, Room 371

Office Hours: By appointment. You may reach me at or at aendter@uw.edu.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Interviewing and Counseling introduces students to a set of skills critical to the practice of law in any context. The teaching method involves simulations in which students will be required to play the roles of client, lawyer, and critique provider. After taking this course you should be able to:

- Listen effectively
- Ask client-centered questions and gather facts and objectives
- Analyze the client's objectives and needs
- Identify the legal theories and analyze the problem/issue
- Guide the client in her or his decision-making and course of action

Text: Herman, G. Nicholas and Jean M. Cary, [*A Practical Approach to Client Interviewing, Counseling, and Decision-Making: For Clinical Programs and Practical Skills Courses* \(Links to an external site.\)](#) (LexisNexis 2009).

Optional Text: Martin, Nathalie, *Lawyering from the Inside out: Learning Professional Development through Mindfulness and Emotional Intelligence* (Cambridge 2018). Note: I placed a copy of this on course reserve and may assign chapters from this book during the course.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND GRADING:

Interviewing & Counseling is an experiential course. Each session covers topics that are critical to your understanding of the interviewing and counseling processes, your knowledge and development of skills, and your future success as a lawyer. During class, you are expected to actively engage in class discussions about concepts and techniques and to fully participate in role play exercises.

This course is graded on a Credit/No Credit basis. Students will receive a Credit grade based on class attendance, class participation, and completion of all assignments, including self-assessments.

To facilitate developing effective attorney-client relationships, laptop use will be limited. When appropriate, laptops may be used for course-related purposes. Professional courtesy is expected.

Assignments and any changes to the course schedule will be posted on CANVAS.

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

My office hours are by appointment. You may reach me at or at aendter@uw.edu.

ATTENDANCE, HEALTH & WELLNESS:

During this quarter, you are expected to attend every class. If you must be absent, please contact me ahead of time. When it is not possible to contact me before class, please contact me as soon as you are able. You will be responsible for anything assigned or covered during your absence and for making sure your absence does not detrimentally affect your classmates.

It is important that we take care of ourselves inside and outside of class and in our professional lives. Support services on campus include the Counseling Center (206-543-1240); Hall Health-Mental Health Clinic (206- 543-5030); and Student Health & Wellness (206-543-6085). Within the law school you can reach out to your instructor; to Associate Dean for Students Anna Endter (i.e., me); or to Dr. Andy Benjamin (gahb@uw.edu).

If you are concerned about yourself or a friend who is experiencing emotional distress and/or may be at risk for suicide, you can call Safe Campus at 206-685-7233. Safe Campus is UW's 24/7 central reporting office, staffed by trained specialists who will take your call and connect you with resources. Please save the number for Safe Campus in your cell phones.

ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATIONS:

Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs. If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental

health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 011 Mary Gates Hall or 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu. DRS staff offer resources and coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS:

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy \(https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/) (Links to an external site.). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form \(https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/) (Links to an external site.).

STUDENT LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES (UW-IT) SUPPORT:

Contact help@uw.edu or 206-221-5000 for UW NetID and general networking support. UW-IT maintains a help desk at the Odegaard Undergraduate Library.

RESEARCH SERVICES LIBRARIANS:

The Research Services librarians are legal research experts who are dedicated to helping students with research questions, database training, locating academic resources, etc. Visit the library's [UW Law Students page \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site. (Links to an external site.) for more information about their services generally. To get help, you can email the Research Services librarians directly at lawref@uw.edu. You are also welcome to visit the Reference Office on L1 to speak with the Research Services librarian on duty. If you have a detailed research question or would prefer to meet privately with a librarian, you may set up an appointment.

WINTER 2020 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

JAN 08: Course Objectives, Expectations & Overview, Initial Client Contact & Meeting

Readings:

Chapter 1 (Learning Client Interviewing);

Chapter 2 (Overview of the Counseling Process);

Chapter 3 (Initial Client Meeting);

**In-Class Exercises

JAN 15: INTERVIEWING SKILLS: Active Listening & Forms of Questions

Assignment due JAN 14:

Journal #1: "Daily Conversation" (CANVAS);

Readings:

Chapter 4 - Sections 1 through 3;

Keeva Article (CANVAS);

Barkai Article (CANVAS);

Outline of Active Listening Techniques & Inhibitors (CANVAS);

**In-Class Exercises

JAN 22: INTERVIEWING SKILLS: Creating A Timeline

Assignment due JAN 21:

Journal #2: "Body Language" (CANVAS);

Readings/Video:

Chapter 4 (Interviewing the Client);

[YouTube: Louis M. Brown Client Counseling Competition, Part 1 \(CANVAS\)](#)

****In-Class Exercise (Part 1: Interview Phase)**

JAN 29: COUNSELING & DECISION-MAKING: Facilitating the Process

[Assignment due JAN 28:](#)

[Journal #3: “Facilitating Decisions” \(CANVAS\);](#)

Readings:

Chapter 5 (Decision-Making & Implementing the Decision);

Recommended Videos:

[YouTube: Louis M. Brown Client Counseling Competition, Parts 2 & 3](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkqwI2jDv5g>

****In-Class Exercise (Part 2: Counseling Phase)**

FEB 05: COUNSELING: ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Readings:

Chapter 6 in text, Ethical Considerations

Recommended Videos:

YouTube: Louis M. Brown Client Counseling Competition, Parts 4 & 5 [Louis M. Brown Client Counseling Competition, Parts 4 & 5](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vu-jAjc93uc>

****[In-Class Client Interview & Self-Assessment \(outside of class--due FEB 11, 9pm\)](#)**

FEB 12: COUNSELING & DECISION-MAKING IN SPECIAL CONTEXTS

[Assignments due no later than Feb 11th, 9pm.](#)

Completed Self-Assessment (CANVAS);

Readings:

Chapter 7 (Interviewing Witnesses);

Chapter 8 (Counseling & Decision-Making in Special Contexts);

****In-Class Exercises**

FEB 19: HOW WE PROCESS COMMUNICATION; CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES AFFECTING CLIENT COMMUNICATIONS

Complete ["Examining Our Filters Questionnaire"](#) Handout before class. DO NOT submit on CANVAS;

[Cultural Competency, Sylvia E. Stevens](#)

Readings:

[Challenges to Effective Lawyer Client Communications](#)

[How We Process Communication Cycle](#)

FEB 26: ISSUES AFFECTING CLIENT COMMUNICATIONS

[Assignment due FEB 25:](#)

[Journal #4: "Identifying Emotions" \(CANVAS\);](#)

[Fishbowl Exercise](#)

MAR 04: PROFESSIONALISM AND WELLNESS - KEYS TO BETTER CLIENT COMMUNICATION

Readings:

Review cultural competency readings from February 19th and be prepared to discuss them. Also read the following:

[The Five Habits \(skim\)](#)

[Becoming a Lawyer, Chapters 3 and 6](#)

[Mindfulness Meditation, A Tool for a Profession in Need](#)

[When Caring Costs You: Lawyers can Experience Vicarious Trauma from Work](#)

Optional:

[Identifying Your Core Values Exercise](#)

Lawyering from the Inside Out, Chapter 6: Building Your Professional Identity (on course reserve at the Circulation desk)

[The Path to Lawyer Well-Being: Practical Recommendations for Positive Change](#) (skim)

**In-Class Exercises

MAR 11: BEING PRESENT IN THE MOMENT, EVALUATION & WRAP-UP

**In-Class Exercises

[Self Assessment #2 -Final Reflections \(due 3/12 9pm\)](#)

***** Students will be assigned roles to play for in-class exercises. You are expected to be prepared and familiar with your assigned role and background facts.***