

**Interviewing & Counseling**  
Summer Session 2016  
Mondays/Wednesdays – 4-6PM  
Work Phone: (714) 459-1157  
Prof. Sabrina Rivera  
Email: srivera@wsulaw.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment

**Course Description:**

Welcome to interviewing and counseling! This course is a two credit, summer session course that introduces you to a set of skills critical to the practice of law in any context. The goals of the course are: 1) to develop your skills in interviewing & gathering information from clients and witnesses; and, 2) to develop skills in counseling clients to achieve goals and solve problems.

**Course Materials**

The following text is required:

- 1) David A. Binder, Paul Bergman, Paul R. Tremblay, Ian S. Weinstein, Lawyers as Counselors: A Client-Centered Approach, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. (West Academic).

**Additional Readings & Lexis Blackboard**

Additional readings will be posted on a LexisNexis Blackboard. All students are required to sign up for the course's Blackboard page.

**Attendance:**

All students are expected to attend class and to come to class prepared. Since this is a skills course, not attending class, or not being ready when class starts, may significantly interrupt the flow of the session. If there are times when you know that you will not be able to attend class in advance, please email Prof. Rivera. More than 2 absences may result in your receiving a failing grade for the course.

**Grading Criteria and Evaluation**

- Regular class attendance, participation, simulation exercises: 30%
- Client Counseling Session & Outline: 40%
- Reflections (2 Total): 20%
- Client Interview Outline: 10%

**Simulation Exercises:**

A significant part of the course will involve in-class simulation exercises where you will be required to play the part of an attorney with a partner. You are required to partner with a different classmate in each in-class simulation assigned. Instructions for these simulations will be distributed as necessary prior to each simulation. Your performance will be evaluated by me, by you and your partner. A self-evaluation is your opportunity to reflect on your performance and make your own determinations about what you do well and what you believe you can improve.

## **Reflection Papers**

Students are required to submit two short written papers during the course of the summer. These papers are intended for you to reflect on certain aspects of your skills as the course progresses.

Reflection papers should be submitted via email to [rivera@wsulaw.edu](mailto:rivera@wsulaw.edu) on or before the due dates listed below.

## **Course Schedule of Topics, Readings and Assignments:**

The assigned readings should be done before class. Please be prepared to discuss readings, additional readings, simulation exercises, and complete all exercises assigned within each chapter. The questions assigned in each chapter will be discussed in each class.

**\*This syllabus may be updated/revised as the class progresses.**

### **1) Week 1**

#### **a. Monday, June 6, 2016: Course Introduction; Client-Centered Approach; Introduction to Fundamental Counseling Skills (Motivation)**

- Course Syllabus (*Available on Blackboard*)
- Chapter 1 & 2 – Lawyers as Counselors
- Chapter 1, Interviewing Clients Across Cultures (*Available on Blackboard*)

#### **b. Wednesday, June 8, 2015: Fundamental Counseling Skills (Motivation & Active Listening, Forms of Questions); Preparing for the Interview**

- Chapter 2, 3, 4 – Lawyers as Counselors
- Chapter 2 - Interviewing Clients Across Cultures (*Available on Blackboard*)
- In-Class Simulation

### **2) Week 2**

#### **a. Monday, June 13, 2015: Information-Gathering (Beginning Client Conferences; Concluding Client Conferences)**

- Chapters 4, 5, 11 – Lawyers as Counselors
- Chapter 4 - Interviewing Clients Across Cultures (*Available on Blackboard*)
- California Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 3-100, 3-110, 3-210, 3-300, 3-500 – PDF (*Available on Blackboard*)
- Submit hard copy of Client Interview Outline to Professor Rivera before end of class.

- b. **Wednesday, June 15, 2016: Information-Gathering (Interviewing Strategies for Criminal Defense); Decision-Making (Counseling Criminal Defendants)**
  - Chapter 10 and 22 – Lawyers as Counselors
  
  - Guest Speakers: Orange County Public Defender’s Office (Sandra Sosa and Jennifer MacDonald)
  
- 3) **Week 3**
  - a. **Monday, June 20, 2016 – Information-Gathering (Eliciting Timelines); Professionalism**
    - Chapter 6 – Lawyers as Counselors
  
    - Chapter 2 – Essential Lawyering Skills (PDF)
  
    - Business & Professions Code, Article 1 (section 6000, 6001.1); Article 2 (section 6067, 6068) (*Available on Blackboard*)
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  - b. **Wednesday, June 22, 2016 - Information-Gathering (Theory Development Questioning – Pursuing Helpful Evidence)**
    - Chapter 7 – Lawyers as Counselors
  
- 4) **Week 4**
  - a. **Monday, June 27, 2016 - Information-Gathering (Theory Development Questioning)**
    - Chapter 8 – Lawyers as Counselors
  
    - In Class Simulation
  
  - b. **Wednesday, June 29, 2016 – Information-Gathering (Gathering Information From Especially Difficult Clients); Understanding and Addressing Reluctance to Divulge Information;**
    - Chapter 12 – Lawyers as Counselors
  
    - Chapter 8 – Interviewing Clients Across Cultures (*Available on Blackboard*)
  
    - Submit hard copy of Reflection #1 to Professor Rivera before end of class.
  
- 5) **Week 5**
  - a. **Monday, July 4, 2016 – NO CLASS.**

- b. **Wednesday, July 6, 2016 – Decision-Making (Principles Underlying Effective Counseling); Decision-Making (Implementing An Effective Counseling Process,)**
    - Chapter 13 and 14 – Lawyers as Counselors
- 6) **Week 6**
- a. **Monday, July 11, 2016 – Decision-Making (Clarifying Clients’ Objectives, Identifying Alternatives)**
    - Chapters 15 and 16 – Lawyers as Counselors
    - In Class Simulation
  - b. **Wednesday, July 13, 2016 – Decision-Making (Identifying Consequences, Final-Decision-Making); Professionalism**
    - Chapters 17 and 18 – Lawyers as Counselors
- 7) **Week 7**
- a. **Monday, July 18, 2016 – Interviewing Witnesses**
    - Chapter 9 – Essential Lawyering Skills (*Available on Blackboard*)
  - b. **Wednesday, July 20, 2016 – Information-Gathering (Transactional Clients); Decision-Making (Counseling “Deal” Clients, Counseling Formal and Informal Organizational Clients)**
    - Chapters 9, 20, 21 – Lawyers as Counselors
    - California Rule of Professional Conduct, Rule 3-600 (*Available on Blackboard*)
    - **Guest Speakers:** Eric Dominguez & Phoung Le, Attorneys at David Hirson & Partners, LLP.
    - Submit hard copy of Reflection #2 to Professor Rivera before end of class.
- 8) **Week 8**
- a. **Monday, July 25, 2016 – Last Class**
    - Workshop for Counseling Session and Outline
    - Submit hard copy of Counseling Session Outline before Counseling session.
  - b. **Wednesday, July 27, 2016 –Client Counseling Session**

### **DISABILITY SERVICES STATEMENT:**

Western State College of Law provides accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. The **Disabilities** Services Office assists qualified students with disabilities in acquiring reasonable and appropriate accommodations and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities at Western State College of Law.

To seek reasonable accommodations, a student must contact Senior Assistant Dean Donna Espinoza, Student Services Director and Disabilities Services Coordinator, whose office is in the Second Floor Students Services Suite. Dean Espinoza's phone number and email address are: (714) 459-1117; [despinoza@wsulaw.edu](mailto:despinoza@wsulaw.edu). When seeking accommodations, a student should notify Dean Espinoza of her or his specific limitations and, if known, her or his specific requested accommodations. Students who seek accommodations will be asked to supply medical documentation of the need for accommodation. Classroom accommodations are not retroactive, but are effective only upon the student sharing approved accommodations with the instructor or professor. Therefore, students are encouraged to request accommodations as early as feasible with Dean Espinoza to allow for time to gather necessary documentation. If you have a concern or complaint in this regard, please notify Dean Espinoza; or please notify Associate Dean of Students Charles Sheppard at [csheppard@wsulaw.edu](mailto:csheppard@wsulaw.edu) or (714) 459-1152. Complaints will be handled in accordance with the College of Law's "Policy against Discrimination and Harassment."