I. Course

A. Catalog Description:

**Prerequisites:** Completion of social work foundation curriculum or consent of instructor. Concepts regarding conflict resolution with emphasis on teaching a generic mediation model applicable to social work practice.

B. Purpose

The purpose of this course is to introduce concepts regarding conflict and conflict resolution and to teach students a generic mediation model that is applicable to social work practice.

II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. define the differences between litigation, arbitration and mediation;
2. delineate the relationship between conflict theory and mediation practice;
3. discuss the differences and similarities between mediation, psychotherapy, legal advocacy and social work practice;
4. discuss the interdisciplinary nature of mediation practice;
5. identify situations appropriate for mediation;
6. identify the stages of the mediation process;
7. delineate the social work values, ethics, and skills that are necessary for mediation;
8. discuss the impact of race/ethnicity, gender, and social class on the mediation process;
9. conduct a mediation independently and as a co-mediator; and
10. analyze and evaluate a mediated dispute.

III. Course Content

This course will include the following topical content areas:

Conflict and conflict resolution; history and methods of alternative dispute resolution; the role of mediation in social work practice; and the ethics, stages, process and skills of mediation. Issues of human diversity are addressed throughout.

IV. Course Structure

The course will utilize lectures, group discussion, mediation simulations; and role plays.

V. Textbooks

Required:


Additional required articles may be placed on Blackboard.
Recommended:


VI. Course Requirements

A. Reading Assignments

See attached Class Schedule and Assignments.

B. Written Assignments

There will be three (3) written assignments required for this class. These will include:

1. generating options and solutions;
2. a written agreement;
3. analysis and evaluation of a mediated dispute.

C. Exams

There will be no written exams required for this class. Students will be required to video record a role play, which will be graded.

VII. Evaluation and Grading

Grades will be based on:

20% Generating options and solutions
20% A written agreement
30% Analysis and evaluation of mediated dispute
30% Video recorded role play

Grades will be based on the following scale that has been adopted for all advanced curriculum classes in the GCSW:

A = 96-100   C+ = 76-79.9
A- = 92-95.9  C = 72-75.9
B+ = 88-91.9  C- = 68-71.9
B = 84-87.9   D = 64-67.9
B- = 80-83.9  F = Below 64
Although attendance is not graded, it is required. Any absence of more than 3 hours will jeopardize your certification as a mediator. Any absence of more than 6 hours will jeopardize your grade in the course.

VIII. The grade of "I" (Incomplete) is a conditional and temporary grade given when students are either (a) passing a course or (b) still have a reasonable chance of passing in the judgment of the instructor but, for non-academic reasons beyond their control have not completed a relatively small part of all requirements. Students are responsible for informing the instructor immediately of the reasons for not submitting an assignment on time or not taking an examination. Students must contact the instructor of the course in which they receive an “I” grade to make arrangements to complete the course requirements. Students should be instructed not to re-register for the same course in a following semester in order to complete the incomplete requirements.

The grade of "I" must be changed by fulfillment of course requirements within one year of the date awarded or it will be changed automatically to an "F" (or to a "U" [Unsatisfactory] in S/U graded courses). The instructor may require a time period of less than one year to fulfill course requirements, and the grade may be changed by the instructor at any time to reflect work completed in the course. The grade of "I" may not be changed to a grade of W.

Students are expected to demonstrate and maintain a professional standard of writing in all courses, do one's own work, give credit for the ideas of others, and provide proper citation of source materials. Any student who plagiarizes any part of a paper or assignment or engages in any form of academic dishonesty will receive an "I" for the class with a recommendation that a grade of F be assigned, subsequent to a College hearing, in accordance with the University policy on academic dishonesty. Other actions may also be recommended and/or taken by the College to suspend or expel a student who engages in academic dishonesty.

All presentations, papers and written assignments must be fully and properly referenced using APA style format (or as approved by the instructor), with credit given to the authors whose ideas you have used. If you are using direct quotes from a specific author (or authors), you must set the quote in quotation marks or use an indented quotation form. For all direct quotes, you must include the page number(s) in your text or references. Any time that you use more than four or five consecutive words taken from another author, you must clearly indicate that this is a direct quotation. Please consult the current APA manual for further information.
IX. Policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism

Please click the link below for the full explanation of the Academic Honesty policy and procedure:


Definitions:

“Academic dishonesty” means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at the University of Houston or by a course instructor to fulfill any and all academic requirements. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, the following:

Plagiarism
   a. Representing as one’s own work the work of another without acknowledging the source (plagiarism). Plagiarism includes copying verbatim text from the literature, whether printed or electronic, in all assignments including field.

Cheating and Unauthorized Group Work
   b. Openly cheating in an examination, as copying from another’s paper;
   c. Being able to view during an examination, quiz or any in-class assignment an electronic device that allows communication with another person, access to unauthorized material, access to the internet, or the ability to capture an image, unless expressly permitted by the instructor;
   d. Using and/or possessing “crib notes,” as unauthorized use of notes or the like to aid in answering questions during an examination;
   e. Giving or receiving unauthorized aid during an examination, such as trading examinations, whispering answers, and passing notes, and using electronic devices to transmit or receive information;
   f. Securing another to take a test in the student’s place. Both the student taking the test for another and the student registered in the course are at fault;

Fabrication, Falsification, and Misrepresentation
g. Changing answers or grades on a test that has been returned to a student in an attempt to claim instructor error;

h. Using another’s laboratory results as one’s own, whether with or without the permission of the owner;

i. Falsifying results in laboratory experiments;

j. Misrepresenting academic records or achievements as they pertain to course prerequisites or corequisites for the purpose of enrolling or remaining in a course for which one is not eligible;

k. Representing oneself as a person who has earned a degree without having earned that particular degree

Stealing and Abuse of Academic Materials

l. Stealing, as theft of tests or grade books, from faculty offices or elsewhere, or knowingly using stolen tests or materials in satisfaction of exams, papers, or other assignments; this includes the removal of items posted for use by the students;

m. Mutilating or stealing library materials; misshelving materials with the intent to reduce accessibility to other students;

Complicity in Academic Dishonesty

n. Failing to report to the instructor or departmental hearing officer an incident which the student believes to be a violation of the academic honesty policy;

Academic Misconduct

o. Any other conduct which a reasonable person in the same or similar circumstances would recognize as dishonest or improper in an academic setting.

Process:

Students shall have the responsibility of reporting incidents of alleged academic dishonesty to the instructor of record involved or to the appropriate authority if the alleged act is not associated with a specific class within 5 class days of the incident.
Faculty or instructor of record shall have the responsibility of reporting incidents of alleged academic dishonesty through their college hearing officer within 5 class days of the incident. The faculty should include the recommended sanction in the report.

The college hearing officer will notify the student of the report and recommended sanction. The student can accept the sanction and waive a hearing or request a college hearing. A hearing shall be set within 10 days and would be consist of two faculty and three students chosen by the hearing officer.

X. **Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:** See below

XI. **Consultation**

My office is on the third floor of the Social Work Building, room 311, and my office phone number is (713) 743-8103. Consultation can be arranged by appointment. My e-mail address is sr Robbins@uh.edu

XII. **Americans with Disabilities Statement**

The University of Houston System complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for students with a disability. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, each University within the System strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact the UH Center for Disabilities at 713-743-5400.

**Class Schedule and Assignments**

**Weekend of February 3rd-5th**
Friday, Feb. 3rd 1 PM - 6 PM
Saturday, Feb. 4th 10 AM - 6 PM
Sunday, Feb. 5th 2 PM - 6 PM

Lecture: Overview of the Mediation Process; Psychotherapy, Legal Advocacy & Social Work; Co-Mediation/Role Play

Lecture: Ethics in Mediation Practice

Lecture: Introductory Statements, Initial Statements and Ventilation/Role Plays
Lecture: Clarification and Problem Identification/Role Plays

Lecture: The use of neutral language in problem Clarification

Lecture: Problem-Solving, Bargaining, and Negotiation/Role Plays

Lecture: Agreement and Closure/Role Plays

Film: Simulated Mediation

**PAPER ON GENERATING OPTIONS DUE by Feb. 12th via email**

**Weekend of February 17th – 19th**
- Friday, Feb. 17th 9 AM PM - 6 PM
- Saturday, Feb. 18th 10 AM - 6 PM
- Sunday, Feb. 19th 2 PM - 6 PM

Readings to have completed: Fisher and Ury – entire book

**WRITTEN AGREEMENT DUE by Feb. 26th via email**

Lecture: Communication Skills and Self Awareness; Race/Ethnicity, Gender and Class/Role Plays: Problem-Solving and Generating Options

Lecture: Ethical practice in social work mediation

Guest Lecturer: Dispute Resolution Center

Film: Alternative Dispute Resolution: 5 Processes

Lecture: Advanced Bargaining & Negotiation, Use of Caucus/Role Plays: Bargaining and Negotiation

Lecture: Advanced Agreement Writing and Closure/Role plays: Agreement Writing

Practice Sessions-role plays

**Weekend of April 7th - 8th**
- Friday, April 7th 1-6 PM

Readings to have completed: Ury – entire book

**ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF A MEDIATED DISPUTE DUE on April 9th**
Practice Session-role plays (entire class)

Saturday, April 8th  9 AM – 5 PM

Video recorded Role Plays for Evaluation (to be scheduled individually)