

## **COUN 5113 Mediation & Conflict Resolution**

Midwestern State University  
Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education

### **Instructor/Contact Information:**

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Office: MSU Counseling Center

Office Hours: Available online within our class from 5:00PM - 7:00PM Tuesdays and Thursdays and by email.

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### **Required Text:**

Barsky, A.E. *Conflict Resolution for the Helping Profession. 3rd edition.*  
Oxford University Press, 2017.

### **Journals (no need to purchase) you might refer to during this class include:**

Conflict Resolution Quarterly

Family Courts Review

Negotiation Journal

Journal of Dispute Resolution

Journal of Peace Education

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### **Catalog/Course Description:**

An introduction to alternative dispute resolution methods. Skill development in mediating disputes both formally and informally.

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### **CACREP Common Core Area Standards Addressed in this Course:**

1. a. history and development of dispute resolution
  - b. theories and models of dispute cases.
  - c. principles, methods for case conceptualization and protocols for managing clients movement toward an agreement.
  2. i. legislation and government policy relevant to the practice of conflict resolution.
  - k. professional organizations, preparation standards. And credentials relevant to practice of mediation.
  - l. legal and ethical considerations applied to mediation.
  3. a. intake interview and determination of conflict issues and personalities of parties.
  - b. techniques and interventions used by mediators.
  - c. strategies for interfacing with legal system regarding court referred parties.
  - d. strategies to advocate for a group in conflict or two or more groups.
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## **Focus of the Course:**

This course will review mediation attitudes, values, and techniques for a variety of settings and using several approaches. Practice of formal interest based mediation process will be emphasized.

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## **Learning Objectives:**

- LO.1. Learn terms and approaches for conflict resolution, negotiation, advocacy, and meditation.
  - LO.2. Practice skills used for facilitating conflict resolution (CR) between/among parties and receive feedback for improvement.
  - LO.3. Determine the variety of settings and methods for utilizing CR methods.
  - LO.4. Practice reflective techniques to prepare for and improve CR interventions.
  - LO.5. Establish ability to establish neutrality and different roles during conflict.
  - LO.6. Practice communication skills to frame issues in nonthreatening ways.
  - LO.7. Demonstrate ability to generate creative solutions to problems.
  - LO.8. Calmness during conflict.
  - LO.9. Recognize the need for sensitivity to individual and cultural differences.
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## **Counseling Expectations**

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program, its faculty, and its students adhere to the University Code of Conduct, State of Texas licensure laws and regulations, and the American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics (2014). The program has a professional responsibility to ensure that all students display ethical, professional, and personal behaviors that comply with these guidelines. Students are strongly encouraged to review, understand, and consult the [American Counseling Association website](#) for details related to these guidelines.

## **Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to participate in all class activities. Rarely, the class needs to have a zoom meeting and students are expected to attend.

## **Academic Honesty:**

MSU students demand of themselves the highest level of academic honesty as delineated in their honor creed. Academic honesty involves the submission of work that is wholly the student's own work, except in the case of assigned group work. Additionally, academic honesty involves the proper citation of other author's works.

## **Senate Bill 11:**

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed

carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at: [Campus Carry](#).

### **Limited Right to Intellectual Property:**

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

### **Disability Services:**

Disability Support Services (DSS) provides services to students with disabilities to insure accessibility to university programs. DSS offers information about accommodations and disability, evaluation referral, adaptive technology training and equipment, and interpreter services for academically related purposes.

The Disability Support Services office is located in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center. If you need assistance, you can also contact them at (940) 397-4140.

**MSU Counseling Center:** I work as the Director of the MSU Counseling Center. To avoid a dual relationship, I cannot see one of my students in counseling. There are other counselors in the center that are available to meet any counseling need you might have.

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### **Assessment and Assignments:**

#### **1. Video of role playing and analysis of the video: (40% of final grade)**

- A. Facilitate a role play of mediation situation and record it on your telephone or other device.
- B. Formulate an analysis of the video describing what happened, what you did and why, what theory you were using, the CR role you were utilizing, and any other information. Include your experience, thoughts and feelings of the actual event. Include an analysis of specific improvements you will make in your future CR tasks.
- C. The analysis is to be in the form of a graduate level paper with citations that you find in your text about CR theories and roles. While not necessary, you may use another peer reviewed source for your paper. A rubric will be provided.

#### **2. Posts assigned throughout the course: (30% of final grade)**

Posts need to give evidence that the material was read, the ppt was viewed, or the activity was completed. Evidence is also required that you thought about the activity and processed it.

#### **3. Exam: (30% of final grade)**

Exam consists of essay questions, multiple choice and T/F questions covering readings and discussions.

Syllabus created by Pam Midgett, August. 2020