

# **CLIENT INTERVIEWING & COUNSELING**

**Law 570 – SUMMER 2019**

**Professor Brandon J. Zanotti**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **I. Class Time & Room**

Room 108  
Thursdays, 4:50 – 7:20 pm

### **II. Contact Information**

Prof. Brandon J. Zanotti  
Williamson County State's Attorney  
200 W. Jefferson Street, Suite 205  
Marion, Illinois 62959  
E-Mail: [bjzanotti@gmail.com](mailto:bjzanotti@gmail.com) or [brandon.zanotti@siu.edu](mailto:brandon.zanotti@siu.edu)

Please feel free to e-mail me with any questions you may have. E-mail is the best way to reach me. I will also be amenable to setting up specific meeting times if need be.

### **III. Purpose & Scope of the Course**

This is a skills-based course, covering theories and techniques used in interviewing and counseling clients in the context of legal representation. The course will consist of both lecture components (including question and answer sessions), and simulation/writing exercises designed to illustrate client interviewing and counseling techniques.

There will be several in-class exercises, one mid-term interviewing assignment, and one final counseling assignment.

### **IV. Attendance**

The Law School has a mandated attendance policy. Pursuant to that policy and due to the fact that this is a two credit hour class and will only meet eight times this semester, you will only be allowed to miss one (1) unexcused class this semester. Other excused absences may be granted subject to my prior approval. I strongly encourage you to attend each and every class session as we will be building on fact patterns and lectures in a cumulative fashion throughout the semester. Failure to comply with the School of Law attendance policy shall result in sanctions.

Certain classes will require *mandatory attendance*, and an absence will be allowed only for documented emergencies or if given permission to miss that class is given by the professor well in advance; if one of these mandatory attendance classes is missed with a valid excuse, the

in-class project will still be required to be made up during an off-class time period as scheduled by the professor.

## **V. Required Text**

Lawyers as Counselors: A Client-Centered Approach (Fourth Edition), David A. Binder, et al. (West Academic Publishing 2019). (hereafter “LAC”)

## **VI. Assignments & Grades**

This course is Pass/Fail. The grades will be converted by the Registrar according to the following scale: 2.1 or greater = Satisfactory; below 2.1 = Unsatisfactory. Only students who receive a Satisfactory grade will earn academic credit for the course.

If you provide adequate, timely writing assignments and participate in all practical exercises you will pass this class. In the event I determine any of your assignments are inadequate, you will be given an opportunity to correct any deficiencies based upon my written feedback. Unless otherwise noted or instructed, all written assignments must be turned in to me on the date due.

Throughout the semester we will engage in practical live exercises. Some of these exercises may be done with a partner or partners. I will ask for all of your e-mail addresses at the start of the first class. There will be many assignments and messages throughout the semester I will give via e-mail.

## **VII. Class Schedule, Readings & Assignments**

### **Class 1 – June 13, 2019: Introduction to the Course; Basic Elements of Lawyers as Counselors**

- Readings for Class: LAC, Chapters 1-3
- Assignment for Next Class: Handout Assignment
- Brief Description of Class: In this session, we will outline the course and its objectives and expectations. We will also discuss the concept of client-centered lawyering.

### **Class 2 – June 20, 2019: Fundamentals of Client Interviewing**

- Readings for Class: LAC, Chapters 4-7
- Assignment for Next Class: None
- Brief Description of Class: We will discuss the client interviewing process in detail, including the concept of eliciting timelines and theory development.

### **Class 3 – June 27, 2019: Challenging Circumstances in the Interview Process; Interviewing Criminal and Family Law Clients; Concluding the Interview**

- Readings for Class: LAC, Chapters 8-9; Chapter 11

- Assignment for Next Class: Midterm Project – Client Interview Project
- Brief Description of Class: We will discuss how to respond to challenging circumstances in the interview stage, including how to handle hostile and rambling clients. We will also discuss specific issues and concerns when interviewing both a criminal defendant client, and a family law client. We will also discuss issues arising in concluding a client interview.

**Class 4 – July 4, 2019: FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY (Midterm Project Scheduling TBD)**

**Class 5 – July 11, 2019: Fundamentals of Client Counseling**

- Readings for Class: LAC, Chapters 12-15
- Assignment for Next Class: TBD
- Brief Description of Class: We will discuss theories and concepts involving client counseling.

**Class 6 – July 18, 2019: Interviewing and Counseling the Organizational/Transactional Client**

- Readings for Class: LAC, Chapter 10; Chapters 17 and 18
- Assignment for Next Class: TBD
- Brief Description of Class: We will discuss specific issues and concerns involving interviewing and counseling the organizational/transactional client.

**Class 7 – July 25, 2019: Counseling Clients in Civil Litigation and Criminal Defense Cases**

- Readings for Class: LAC, Chapters 16 and 19
- Assignment for Next Class: Final Project – Client Counseling Project
- Brief Description of Class: We will discuss specific issues and concerns involving counseling clients in the course of civil litigation, as well as criminal defense cases.

**Class 8 – August 1, 2019: Final Project**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**ADDENDUM**

**Workload Expectations**

The American Bar Association standards for accrediting law schools contain a formula for calculating the amount of work that constitutes one credit hour. According to ABA Standard 310(b)(1), “a “credit hour” is an amount of work that reasonably approximates: (1) not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work

per week for fifteen weeks, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time.” This is a 2-credit hour summer semester class, meaning we will spend one 150-minute block of time together each of the eight weeks. Applying the ABA standard to the number of credits offered in the class, you should plan on spending a total of nine hours total on the course per week.

### **Plagiarism and Collaboration**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, and if it occurs, appropriate sanctions will be levied. As mentioned above, there will be several projects that will require collaborative work efforts as a group. I will clearly define those projects where group collaboration is appropriate. If not defined, then it shall be assumed that the work project is an individual project, and no plagiarism or group collaboration will be allowed.

### **Emergency Procedures**

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Safety's website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

### **Disability Policy**

Disability Support Services provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. <http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/>. Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreement to the School of Law Registrar's Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations.

### **Saluki Cares**

The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIU will continue

to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-5714, or [siucares@siu.edu](mailto:siucares@siu.edu), <http://salukicare.siu.edu/index.html>. At the School of Law, Assistant Dean Judi Ray is also available to help students access university resources. Her email is [judiray@siu.edu](mailto:judiray@siu.edu), and her phone number is 618-453-3135.

### **Recording of Classes**

Our class is not set up to be recorded. If you know you must miss class in advance and desire a recording, you may contact the law school's tech support office in advance and inquire as to whether a certain class session may be recorded, and must obtain my permission first if doing so. Some of the hands-on, practical activities we will be conducting would be better learned in person, and if one of those sessions is missed, it may behoove the absent student to schedule a time to engage in the missed activity as opposed to watching it on a recording. Also, please be aware that using video or audio devices to record our class without express permission will be deemed to be a violation of the SIU Law Honor Code.