

## Summer 2024 Negotiation Syllabus

Professor Valery C. Behan

Law 642 Tues-Thurs, 1:30- 4:00 pm

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### 1. Course Overview:

Welcome to negotiations! The skills you will learn (or hone) and practice in this class are ones that you can use for the rest of your life. Nearly every decision you make *with* another person requires negotiating, from deciding where to eat lunch together, to how much you'll pay to buy a car or a house. Negotiation is at play even in common-place interactions with strangers, like in allowing a vehicle in the next lane to merge, or putting your kids to bed. I believe all lawyers and law students would benefit from negotiation training, and personally found it to be the most useful class I took in law school.

As lawyers you will invariably negotiate much more than you will ever litigate. Most criminal matters are resolved through guilty pleas, and most civil cases are settled before trial. You will negotiate with opposing counsel many times more than you will ever face them in a courtroom. As a practicing attorney you will also need to negotiate with your own clients and even with the other attorneys and personnel in your own office.

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### 2. Course Philosophy/ Objectives:

You will be learning the theory behind effective negotiation, but more importantly you will be implementing/practicing the skills and learning from one another's successes and mistakes. (Most days we will discuss theory for the first half of class, and you will be doing exercises for the second half of class.) In addition to reading about and watching others negotiate, each of you will participate in four practice and five graded negotiation exercises. For those who are not comfortable negotiating, these problems should give you more confidence. For those who are already skilled negotiators the goal is to improve upon your skills. Among other things, the exercises allow each student to learn for themselves the importance of preparation, of setting high but defensible goals, of asking what and why questions, of recognizing when to compromise, and of maintaining personal integrity and professional courtesy.

Additionally, in class and for the exercises, students will be able to identify instances of inequity in the treatment of others as well as in the valuation of damages, and to learn to make persuasive arguments that promote equity. You will also be able to effectively employ strategies of active listening, empathy and effective allyship during our classroom discussions and during your negotiation exercises.

*Conflict* is inherent in negotiation, and the law school setting adds further *competition for grades*. This approximates the conflict and *competition for money* in the real world, but it doesn't mean that this must be unpleasant. It makes things exciting! Try not to give or take

offense (don't be either a whiner or a jerk); and, like actors playing a role, don't take what happens during a negotiation personally. Remember, you will be interacting with the same students throughout the semester, just as in the real world you will likely negotiate with some of the same opposing counsel in multiple negotiations. Effective negotiators (cooperative or aggressive) always treat each other with respect and courtesy. I want to see full effort but please don't be *full of yourself*. Keep in mind that each of your graded exercises is only worth approximately 12 % of your grade. Remember to be PREPARED but also try to have FUN!

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### 3. Course Materials:

The required texts are: (1) *Effective Legal Negotiation and Settlement*, 9<sup>th</sup> Ed., Charles Craver, ISBN # 9781531017798, Carolina Academic Press [\*the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition is also acceptable]; and (2) *Getting To Yes*, by Roger Fisher, William L. Ury and Bruce Patton (Penguin Books, May 3, 2011) or any edition.

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### 4. Audio visual Materials & Equipment:

This semester we will meet every class period using Microsoft Teams. When we meet make sure that you have a good internet connection, that you have the camera on during class, that the light source is in front of you (not behind you), and that you are fully dressed. Please set up a designated place where you are comfortable having the camera on or set up a virtual background.

For most of the negotiation exercises you will also meet with your partners on Teams, but at times (for example, if you cannot finish the negotiation exercise during class time) you can meet via any other video chat program, in person, by telephone, by email, or even using texts—whichever you and your partner agree to.

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### 5. Attendance:

Attendance is critical for this class. During Summer Semester the normal 14-week content is condensed into 7 weeks. Each class period is equal to two class periods of a regular semester. Most days we will start out reviewing your most recent negotiation, and then we will discuss the theory contained in the chapter reading for the day. The second half of class will usually be spent negotiating the next exercise.

From time to time, **you'll be given a link to watch a recording of a guest lecturer along with some questions/a worksheet to complete.** Attendance for those days will be counted when you turn in a passable response to the worksheet, on time. On these days you will have to arrange to complete the negotiation exercise with your partner by whichever means (in person, by video chat, phone, email, text etc.) you agree upon.

Since we meet together so few times, you CANNOT HAVE MORE THAN 1 UNEXCUSED ABSENCE WITHOUT PENALTY. Each day missed, starting with the 2nd absence, will result in a .10 reduction in one's total points. **(Exceptions will be made for injury, illness, or other good reason. If you contact me ahead of time [or as soon as practicable] I do and will grant excused absences for injury, illness, or other commitments.)** You will also be counted absent on any day that you are not prepared/haven't read before class. *I can tell this by your quizzes.<sup>1</sup>*

All times that are designated as a "LAB" period on the schedule are reserved for you to negotiate. PLEASE KEEP this class time every Tuesday and Thursday clear of other appointments, so you will always have this time to negotiate. I may observe some of your negotiations on Teams but I will be available for questions about an exercise during lab times, so feel free to chat, text, or call me with any questions then. Email is fine too but I don't get (or want notifications) and may not see or be able to respond immediately to emails.

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## 6. Classroom Behavior:

As noted above, you are expected to have **read the assigned materials before class**; you are also expected to **participate in class discussions**. Behavior in class and during the negotiation exercises must conform to the Honor Code: "Law students are expected to uphold the standards of professional conduct that are reflected in this Code, which includes obligations to be honest, [and] to act in a manner that is civil toward others...." (Introduction, SIU School of Law Honor Code). Any student who is dishonest or uncivil will be asked to leave the class and will be counted absent for that day.

## 7. Grading: 427 Points Possible

- a. **47%** of your grade (**200 points**) is based on your performance in 4 of the 5 **graded exercises** (the lowest exercise score will be dropped). For each exercise, the student with the highest raw score for his/her side will get 50 points. The next highest raw score will receive 47 points and so on. Record your results and answer your Self Evaluation questions right on the D2L drop box by 11:00 pm on the day the Lab/Negotiation Exercise is scheduled. If there is a score sheet, fill in the details of your agreement, double check your math, and attach that to the assignment.

*Example of Scoring/Ranking of Graded Exercises*

<i>Scores Ranked</i>	<i>Side A</i>	<i>Side B</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> (highest score)</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>50</i>

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<sup>1</sup> Please just read! The chapters aren't very long, and the material is interesting and easy to understand. If you really care about improving your negotiation skills, or you at least care about getting a good grade in this class, you will complete the readings before each class.

2 <sup>nd</sup>	47	47
3 <sup>rd</sup>	44	44
4 <sup>th</sup>	41	41
5 <sup>th</sup>	38	38
6 <sup>th</sup> Or No Settlement	35	35

*\*If two or more students tie or are within 5 raw points of each other they will share the same rank/score.*

*\*\*Note: If we have an odd number of people in our class you may need to negotiate with me or a person who has taken this class before and has agreed to participate in an exercise for pro bono credit. This person will not be ranked.*

- b. **47%** of your grade (**200 points**) is based upon your performance on the **FINAL EXAMINATION**. You will be tested from lectures (including guest lectures) and your readings. It will consist of some matching and multiple choice, mostly short answers, and short summaries. If you **READ** and **TAKE NOTES IN CLASS**, it is not difficult. 3 hours. **FINAL EXAM DATE= \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ (TBD)**.
- c. **Appx. 6%** of your grade (**27 points**) will come from your writing across the curriculum (WAC) and other assignments: (1) **1 point** possible for your “Negotiate Anything with Anyone” Summaries; (2) **8 points** possible for your *Erin Brockovich* Essay; (3) **9 points** possible for your combined Self and Peer assessments (explained in Section 8 below); and (4) **9 points possible** for the **BAR-TYPE ASSESSMENT** (date and details to follow).
- d. **Reading Quizzes & Extra Credit: (2 + Points)**. Quizzes may be given at the beginning of class to make sure you have read the material for the day. These are not worth points but if you fail you will not get attendance credit for the day. I may give extra credit for a particularly well-written assignment or other tasks TBD. Extra credit for submitting video examples of Blocking Techniques will be given Week 3 Class 3 (Thurs class) and an Expand the Pie Opportunity will be offered Week 5 Class 1 (Tues class).

## **8. Assessments/Evaluations of Self and Others**

Self-Assessments (SAs) and Peer-Assessments (PAs) are helpful tools to improve one’s negotiating skills. On Lab days where you have an exercise scheduled, you are required to write or paste the following right onto D2L by 11 pm that night: (1) a **Self-Assessment** (that only I can view) in Assignments (and if there is a scoresheet, that should be attached); a separate (2) **Peer Assessment (PA)** (that all may view) should be posted under the D2L Communications Tab in Discussions. A late SA or PA will get half credit. One not posted in the correct place or manner will likewise be reduced by half.

**a. Self-Assessments (SA)** (9 Total= One SA after each of the 4 ungraded and 5 graded exercises; each worth .5 points. **Number and answer thee 10 questions:** 1) your name, 2) your side, 3) your results, 4) the total points (if there is a scoresheet) for the exercise); 5) who you negotiated with; 6) how you prepared for the negotiation; 7) what your specific goals were for each item to be negotiated; 8) what your bottom line/ or walk-away point was for each item; what you did well; and 10) what you could improve upon.

**Self-Assessment Example:** “Ex. A. 1) *Val Behan*, 2) *defendant’s rep.*, 3) *my client agreed to x, y and z in the negotiation*; 4) *total points 250*; 5) *partner John Doe*. 6) *How I prepared for the negotiation: I looked up comparable settlements for this type of injury and researched the law on comparative fault in the jurisdiction*. 7) *My goal for the settlement amount was for the defendant (my client) to pay no more than \$300,000 and I also wanted the plaintiff to sign a non-disclosure agreement*. 8) *My client’s absolute bottom line/ walk-away point was for him to pay \$400,000 with a non-disclosure agreement*. 9) *What I did well-- Near the start of negotiations, I used bracketing successfully; in other words, I was also able to give a counteroffer that placed my goal exactly in the middle of their initial offer and mine. They asked for \$500 K, my goal was \$300 K, so I started off offering \$100 K (and I had figures to back up that amount)*. 10). *Things I could improve-a couple of times I think I made two concessions in a row, and I was nervous and didn’t hold my ground on X; next time I’ll plan out my concessions ahead of time, and ....”*

**b. Peer Assessments (PA)** (9 Total= One PA after each of the 4 ungraded and 5 graded exercises; each worth .5 points). A Discussion will be labeled after each exercise (e.g., *Peer Assessment for Practice Exercise #1*) where you should identify: (a) your name/side and (b) the name of your opponent/her side. Then list: (1) what your opponent did well during the negotiation (*at least one thing*); and (2) give some suggestions for improvement *\*(at least 1 mistake they made/ something to improve)*.

**\*Note:** *Many of us are uncomfortable giving criticism (even constructive criticism) to others, but this is very important! You’re the only one who has seen the negotiation and are in the unique position of helping your opponent improve. So, if you write “nothing can be improved –it was great” (or something like that) you’ll get a .25 point reduction.*

**Peer Assessment Example:** “(a) *My name--defendant*. (b) *Opponent’s name--plaintiff*. 1. *O did an excellent job making me feel comfortable, asking questions about my underlying interests, and listening. O also deflected my question about X which ....* 2. *As for suggestions, O may want to be watch out for verbal leaks. At one point he said, “I don’t think I could go much higher than Y” so I knew he could go higher....*

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## 9. **Workload:**

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.” A 50-minute classroom hour is considered an hour.

This is a 3-credit hour summer class that meets twice a week (two 75-minute blocks each day we meet). As stated earlier, for this class **the second half of most class sessions will be Lab periods** in which you will negotiate. Negotiations typically take the same time as a class period or 75 minutes, but sometimes they can last longer. The amount of assigned reading for class, and out of class preparation for the negotiation exercises (including post-exercise self-assessments and peer assessments) should take you at least 12 hours per week. This added to class/lab time would total 18 hours per week. On weeks that there are no exercises your writing assignments are designed to take the same amount of time.

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#### **10. RULES for ALL NEGOTIATION EXERCISES:**

- a. Before negotiating an exercise, you may NOT READ the other sides’ Confidential Information. **Nor may you discuss it with anyone who has taken the class before.** A violation of this rule will result in a failing grade for the class and disciplinary action.
- b. While negotiating do not show your Confidential Information or score sheets to the other side’s representative. However, you should disclose some of the factual/legal information set forth in your Confidential Information if it helps your client in the negotiation.
- c. While negotiating neither side may disclose any of the specific information pertaining to their side’s scoring system. (They may say that one item is valued twice as much by their client than another item, but they may not disclose that any item is worth “x” points.)
- d. After final terms are reached, negotiators may read Opponent’s Confidential Info. & Scoring System Info. With this information you can try to expand the pie. (*This means that without lowering the points of either side, you both can figure out a distribution of items/terms so that at least one side gets--but ideally both sides get-more total points.*)
- e. Negotiators may **not make any knowing misrepresentations of material law or fact during their interactions.** In other words, do not lie. Representations concerning their side’s value system (what their client wants/does not want) or what they are willing to accept (settlement intentions) shall not be considered representations of material fact. Such puffing and embellishment is considered “nonmaterial” information [Model Rule 4.1]. Anyone who violates this rule will receive the lowest score for the exercise in which the representation is made, and I may increase their opponents’ score at my discretion.

- f. Unless otherwise directed, do not discuss settlement talks or any agreement achieved with any other Negotiation Course members, except your partner or opponents, until the time limit for all the group has expired.
- g. After a negotiation exercise, the “attorneys” must sign a joint agreement including all the terms. (Initialing a screen shot is fine.) It does NOT NEED TO BE TURNED IN but must be kept in case of disagreement as to the terms and/or point calculation. It is for your own protection and so that you can get used to documenting and attesting to the terms agreed to after every negotiation in the real world too. The negotiation is not considered finished until the terms are initialed by each party’s representative. This must be done before you try to expand the pie/maximize points.
- h. All negotiations must be completed by 10 pm each Lab Day. Scores or score sheets (and self and peer assessments) are due by 11 pm. [2 points will be deducted from your final exercise score if your SA and/or score sheet is posted AFTER 11 pm.]
- i. **Remember that a bad deal is worse than no deal!** If during a negotiation you are at or near your client’s bottom line, you will probably get the lowest score on the negotiation. Therefore, it behooves you to **tell the other side that if you cannot get more for your client then you will take a non-settlement.** (This would be the same score you’d likely get anyway but would also put them at the lowest score for their side.) If you are serious about this option, the other party will likely give some more concessions since they don’t want to get the lowest score either. (With some exercises there are built-in options for non-settlement; for example, you may be able to flip a coin or roll dice for your result. If this is the case, make sure your settlement is better than what you’ve calculated your worst result would be if you decided to roll/flip/etc.)
- j. If there is no settlement the parties still must initial each other’s final offers (again, sending a screen shot to each other will work) and each must POST his/her final offer. Please do this right on the drop box itself, labeling your name and side, the opposing counsel’s name, writing “NON-SETTLEMENT” and attaching the score sheet (if there is one) showing what your last offer was and what points you *would have* received for it had it been accepted.
- k. Occasionally a party might hold out for ridiculously high points or a dollar amount much higher than anyone else on the plaintiff/prosecution side; or an insanely low dollar amount (much lower payout) or otherwise demand many more points than anyone else on the defense/defendant’s side. If this party refuses to budge even after a non-settlement is proposed by opposing counsel; and if as per rule j. they both initial the final offers, and the other party had a reasonable offer and takes a non-settlement; then, in my discretion I may award the person who had the reasonable final offer the lower of (i) the points their last offer would have garnered them OR (ii) the median grade for the exercise. Such an action would not affect the ranking of any other students.

*NOTE 1: If you wish to negotiate in person, you can call or visit the office to reserve a room at the law school or meet at any pre-arranged location. You can negotiate via email, telephone, text or video conferencing as well.*

*NOTE 2: You will usually negotiate exercises on Teams during the LAB periods designated for the second half of most of our class times. However, partnerships will be assigned, and exercises given out ahead of time. You may choose to negotiate any other time between the time that you receive the assignment and class time. If you have completed the exercise before the designated Lab time you do not have to attend that lab/the second half of class that day. Just please let me know when/if you will do that.*

*Keep in mind that during designated lab times, you, me, and your classmates have this time free in our schedules. (Remember--I WANT YOU TO KEEP THIS TIME FREE OF ALL OTHER APPOINTMENTS, to negotiate or if we need a make-up class for some reason.)*

*NOTE 3: Please **check email each day** after an exercise is assigned **and respond quickly to your partner's requests to meet**. Also be considerate of each other's time. No negotiation need go longer than 1.5 hours or so.*

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### **11. Contacting Me:**

You can **contact me anytime** via email at [valbehan@siu.edu](mailto:valbehan@siu.edu) or [behanvalery@gmail.com](mailto:behanvalery@gmail.com) and I'll usually respond within 24 hours. I am also available via **text or call** at **618-521-1847**. I typically will not answer calls from those I do not have in my contacts though, so if you'd like to call, please text me first so I know your #. I don't have office hours, but I am usually available to meet with you in person before or after class. To arrange any other appointment time just text or email. For questions during an exercise, I should still be on the Teams meeting and you can send me a message on chat, or you may text or call.

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### **12. Notice of Recording Policies:**

You are not authorized to make your own recording of this class. Classes will be recorded via Microsoft Teams and at my discretion I will allow access to these recordings. It is an Honor Code violation to create or distribute recordings when the instructor has prohibited either action [Honor Code I.E.1.g].

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### **13. Ban on Collaboration:**

You are not allowed to obtain help from any other person (including any other student) or from generative artificial intelligence (including, but not limited to, ChatGPT) on any of the written assignments or the Final Exam in this course. If you violate the ban on collaboration policy,



you will receive a failing grade on that assignment. You also may be found in violation of the Honor Code, which can lead to serious penalties, including expulsion. An Honor Code investigation must also be reported to the Bar Examiners, even if you are cleared of any violation.

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**14. University Syllabus Attachments:** See <https://pvcaa.siu.edu/common/documents/syllabus-attachments/syllabus-attachment-summer-2024.pdf>

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**15. SCHEDULE SUMMER 2024:** the assignment schedule is posted on D2L under the Syllabus Tab.

Once posted the schedule will likely remain as written, **but I reserve the right to make changes.**

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*I look forward to a great semester with all of you! 😊*