

GSU COLLEGE OF LAW  
Law 7291 - Interviewing and Counseling  
SUMMER, 2009  
SYLLABUS

Professor: Denise de La Rue  
Contact: PH: 404-875-1313  
[denise@denisedelarue.com](mailto:denise@denisedelarue.com)

**Required Materials:**

The Counselor at Law: A Collaborative Approach to Client Interviewing and Counseling, Cochran, DiPippa and Peters, Second Edition (LEXIS Publishing, 2006)

Supplemental Reading may be assigned. .

VHS video cassettes

**Course:** The course will focus on the basic skills involved in interviewing and counseling clients within the practice of law. The course will rely heavily on role-play exercise done in and out of class, simulations and discussion.

**Attendance:** Prompt and regular class attendance and participation are required.

**Assignments:**

In addition to reading, during the semester, a role-play exercise will be distributed at the end of class. It will be your responsibility to pair with another student and perform that exercise *before the next class (unless you are assigned to perform the exercise in class)*. You must videotape two of these exercises for my review. Some people will be specifically assigned to video tape their exercises each week, however it is your responsibility to make sure that you have videotaped two role plays during the semester. Please play the role of the lawyer in one of your recorded role plays and the role of the client in one. Video equipment is available to you at GSU, let me know if you need to receive information regarding its use.

**Journal:** A requirement of the course is keeping a journal. Following each role play exercise, you should make observations/critiques in a journal. In addition, write any other experiences that you have (whether within your law school/legal work life or not) that you think relates to the focus of this course. There may also be assignments given in class that will be journal entries. (See attached on Journal Entries)

In addition, during this semester, you will need to read two articles of your choice on the topic of interviewing and counseling within the practice of law (these may not be articles that are assigned as additional reading for class). The source for these may be legal or other academic journals. (i.e.. psychology, sociology, communications). Please provide me with a site (if available on Westlaw/Lexis) or a copy of these articles. In addition, you must watch at least one film that deals with relationships of attorneys and clients. A review including your impressions of these films and articles should also be recorded in your journal.

You may NOT choose films or articles that you have already reviewed for other classes.

**I WILL READ YOUR JOURNAL.** So, please do not write anything in your journal that you do not wish for me to read.

**Grading:** Each of the following will count one-third of your final grade:

1. **FINAL EXAM** - at the end of the course there will be a take-home, open-book (or any source) final exam.
2. **CLASS PARTICIPATION AND JOURNAL.** I will may ask to see your journal periodically, and it will be due at the end of the semester. Class assignments that are to be included in your journal will also be considered in this segment of your grade, as well as your attendance and participation in all aspects of class.
3. **ROLE-PLAYS/SIMULATIONS** - In addition to your two videotaped role-plays, each of you will do one role play in class with a fellow student. We will also have some classes reserved for simulations done in class, some of them using actors and lawyers as your role-play partners.

## **Suggestions for Journal**

Following are some suggestions for topics you *may* want to write about in your journal entries about your role plays. It is by no means all inclusive, nor does it mean that each journal entry must contain each of these elements.

Points covered in reading : for example, chapter one deals with different models of representation. For that week's role play, you may notice when the lawyer in the role plays used aspects of each model (or not). This course is cumulative, so of course as time goes by you will have more points of reference.

Rapport: How did you get along with your lawyer/client? What do you like/not like about that person? What inhibited or enhanced your rapport?

Listening: Did you listen and were you being heard? What did you learn? What sorts of questions did I ask/were asked? Were active listening techniques used? Did I get the information I needed, and why or why not?

Feelings: How did you feel as the lawyer or the client? Why? Are all of these feelings due to merely the dynamics of the role play? Did this lawyer/client touch any of my "hot buttons"? What are other times I have felt this way?

Goals: Did I accomplish what I wanted, or get what I wanted, out of this interaction? Why or why not? Was there structure and direction to the interview?

Learning: What did I learn from this?

While it may be useful to include "critique" or commentary about your role play partner, the most fruitful analysis tends to be that of yourself.

**READING ASSIGNMENTS**  
**LAW 7291 – INTERVIEWING AND COUNSELING**  
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May 12	Text, Chapters 1
May 19	Text, Chapters 2, 3 & 4
May 26	Text, Chapters 5, 6, 7
June 2	Text, Chapters 8. 9.
June 9	Text, Chapters 11, 12 Guest Speaker - Dr. Catherine Brack - Myers Briggs Psychological Type Theory In-Class Role Plays
June 16	Donald C. Langevoort, "Ego, Human Behavior and Law," 81 Va. L. Rev. 853 In Class Role Plays
June 23	No Reading  In-Class Role Plays