Professor’s Contact Information
- Leslie R. Roberts, Senior Lecturer
- Office location - Chilton Hall, room 263
- UNT Office Phone (940) 565-3437 Fax (940) 565-4663
- UNT Office hours – Wednesdays 9am-12pm or by appointment.
- When communicating electronically about the course, please communicate with the instructor only in the Blackboard Messages tab.

About the Professor / Instructor
Ms. Roberts is an attorney and mediator whose legal practice has encompassed international matters, regulatory and political matters, general business and transactional matters, and special education; mediation practice has included business, employment and family disputes.

Materials – Text, Readings, Supplementary Readings
- Required texts
  1. *Renegotiating Family Relationships: Divorce, Child Custody and Mediation*
     Robert E. Emery
     Second edition; 2012; The Guilford Press
  2. *Texas Family Code*
     West’s Texas Statutes and Codes; 2012 Edition
     West Publishing
- Supplementary readings – as assigned

Course Description
The course focuses on the fundamentals of non-litigation-based conflict resolution and negotiation strategies used when restructuring families during divorce, at the end of intimate partnerships or modifying previously negotiated terms relating to these. Students have the opportunity to further develop their mediation skills appropriate for these issues through assigned readings, written assignments, exercises, role play simulations, discussion boards, videos and classroom instruction. This course is blended, which means that up to 50% of all course content may be online.
**Instructional Methods**
Instruction consists of class room lectures, discussions, activities, instructor’s and other videos and written materials relating to written exercises, assignments, role play simulations, discussion boards, group work and written exams.

**Course Requirements**
**Reading assignments:** Each week’s reading assignment must be completed prior to completion of all required work.

**Exercises:** Students must read or view the material provided and complete the exercise. Each exercise assigned will be graded. Failure to complete and submit assignments by the due date will result in appropriate reductions in final grades.

**Discussion boards:** Discussion boards are assigned to stimulate critical thinking about negotiation. Students will be graded on the quality of their posts.

**Final:** There will be a graded final in this course.

**Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes**
At the end of this course, the student will:

1. *Understand* theories, research and literature relating to conflict, its resolution and their application to family mediation.
2. *Understand* the consequences of separation/divorce for adults and children.
3. *Demonstrate* the ability to screen for appropriateness of mediation, including knowledge and ability to screen for domestic violence and an awareness of appropriate response(s) when domestic violence or its potential has been identified.
4. *Demonstrate* the ability to facilitate problem solving between the parties, especially in the areas of divorce including, but not limited to, parenting, support, division of assets/liabilities, insurance, tax filings, and the like.
5. *Demonstrate* the ability to work with the substantive information encountered in separation/divorce mediation.
6. *Demonstrate* the ability to recognize when the assistance of other professionals might be helpful to the mediation process and to facilitate this discussion with the parties.

**Teaching Philosophy**
I am eager to engage students who are enrolled in a 4000-level course because they are independent learners and thinkers and who are eager to improve and further develop their conflict resolution skills.
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS / ASSISTANCE
The following information has been provided to assist you in preparation for the technological aspect of the course.

- Hardware and software necessary to use Blackboard Learn: http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk
- Browser requirements: http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=84639794
- Computer and Internet Literacy: http://clt.odu.edu/oso/index.php?src=pe_comp_lit
- Necessary plug-ins: http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/
- Internet Access with compatible web browser
- Headset/Microphone (if required for synchronous chats)
- Word Processor

ACCESS & NAVIGATION
Access and Log in Information
The course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing the University of North Texas Learning Management System, Blackboard Learn. To get started with the course, please go to: https://learn.unt.edu

You will need your EUID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your EUID or have forgotten your password, please go to: http://ams.unt.edu.

Student Resources
As a student, you will have access to:
- Student Orientation via Blackboard Learn. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials within the Orientation to better equip you in navigating the course.
- Blackboard’s On Demand Learning Center for Students and Blackboard Help for Students. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials to better equip you to navigate the course.

Being a Successful Online Student
- What Makes a Successful Online Student?
- Self Evaluation for Potential Online Students

What Should Students Do First?
2. Students should submit the following information to the instructor via a Blackboard Message the first week of class:
Student ID
EUID
Best phone number and email address for emergency alerts

**How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities**
Students should access Blackboard daily for announcements and messages regarding the course.

**Student Support**
The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Blackboard and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)
Phone: (940) 565-2324
In person: **Walk-ins @ Sage Hall (Room 130)**

Regular hours are maintained to provide support to students. Please refer to the website ([http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/hours.htm](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/hours.htm)) for updated hours.

**Communication**
Information about the communication tools in the course and how they will be used:

**Blackboard Messages**
For all course-related questions, please read this syllabus carefully before seeking assistance. You must use the Message function in Blackboard for all electronic communications with your professor about the course. Should we communicate by phone, please expect to see a confirmation message from me.

Students can expect a response from the instructor within 24-hours of sending a message *during business hours*. If your concern is urgent during business hours, please call the office number provided and speak by phone or leave a message. BbL messages may not be answered during the weekend.

**Blackboard Announcements**
Please check the Announcements frequently for updated information and changes.

**The Golden Rule Applies:** Please extend the receiver of your message the same courtesy you would expect to receive when communicating. Please read and consider the content of the message before responding. Profanity and insults will not be tolerated.
Assessments / Grading

Assessments
This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course:

- Online exercises
- Group exercises / role play simulations / class discussions
- Discussion boards
- Written assignments
- Final assignment

Exercises
Participating in class exercises allows students to earn participation credit. Online exercises are not timed and attempts are limited to the number provided in each assignment. A grade for each online exercise will be awarded and posted in BbL. Late submissions will not be accepted without an acceptable explanation as determined by the instructor.

Discussion Boards
Please read the Discussion Board Guidelines for guidance before beginning each discussion board assignment. Student posts are required to be submitted by the deadline noted. Discussion board assignments are not timed and may be reviewed once the post is submitted, but not edited by the student. A grade for each discussion board will be awarded and posted in BbL. Late submissions will not be accepted without an acceptable explanation as determined by the instructor.

Grading Procedure

Total Points Possible for Semester = 380

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>342-380</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>304-341</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>266-303</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>228-265</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-227</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grades will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online exercises</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion boards</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a student believes he/she will miss assigned course work over an extended period of time and may be unable to complete all work timely, the student should contact the instructor immediately to discuss options.

**Accessing Grades**
Grades will be accessible to students after assigned course work is completed by all students and graded.
FAMILY MEDIATION 4010.001/.070 – FALL 2013 - COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 – August 28-September 1, 2013
Class meeting on August 29th

Discussion of course requirements, expectations, course content in BbL

Making the Case: Restructuring Family Relationships Through Mediation

- Read: Renegotiating Family Relationships text – Ch. 1
- Read: Divorce and Family Mediation excerpt – Ch. 1
- Introduce Yourself

Week 2 – September 3-8, 2013
No class meeting on September 5th

Emotions in Divorce

- Read: Renegotiating Family Relationships text – Chs. 2-3
- Read: What Is Emotional Intelligence?
- Complete: Emotional Intelligence survey
- Complete: exercise – Does Your Emotional IQ Matter?
- Complete: discussion board – Managing Clients’ Emotions: The Case of Sheila and John

Week 3 – September 9-15, 2013
Class meeting on September 12th

Renegotiating Relationships

- Read: Renegotiating Family Relationships text – Ch. 4
- Complete: Small group exercise and role play – The Case of Sheila and John: Separating Marital and Parental Roles

Week 4 – September 16-22, 2013
No class meeting on September 19th

Renegotiating Relationships

- Read: Renegotiating Family Relationships text – Ch. 5
- Complete: Small group exercise – The Case of Sheila and John: Two-Parent Divorced Families
Week 5 – 23-29, 2013
Class meeting on September 26th

Divorce and Custody Law
- Guest speaker: Lisa Zahn, Attorney at Law, Geary, Porter & Donovan
- Read: *Renegotiating Family Relationships* text – Ch. 6
- Read: Texas Family Code – Title 1 pp. 4-61; Title 2 pp. 72-72; p. 87-88; Title 4 pp. 215-236; Title 5 – pp. 236-633; Title 6 pp. 634-635

Week 6 – September 30-October 6, 2013
No class meeting on October 3rd

Divorce and Custody Law and How They Intersect With Family Violence
- Read: *Renegotiating Family Relationships* text – Ch. 6
- Read: Texas Family Code – Title 1 pp. 4-61; Title 2 pp. 72-72; p. 87-88; Title 4 pp. 215-236; Title 5 – pp. 236-633; Title 6 pp. 634-635
- Complete: discussion board

Week 7 – October 7-13, 2013
Class meeting on October 10th

How the Law Really Works In the Best Interest of the Child
- Panel discussion: professionals in the field
- Read: Texas Family Code – Title 1 pp. 4-61; Title 2 pp. 72-72; p. 87-88; Title 4 pp. 215-236; Title 5 – pp. 236-633; Title 6 pp. 634-635

Week 8 – October 14-20, 2013
No class meeting on October 17th

The Reality of Family Case Litigation
- Observe: family case in court for at least 2 hours
- Complete: 3-page paper
Week 9 – October 21-27, 2013
Class meeting on October 24th

Setting the Stage and the First Session
- Read: Renegotiating Family Relationships text – Ch. 7
- Complete: Small group exercise and role play – The Case of Sheila and John

Week 10 – October 28-November 3, 2013
No class meeting on October 31st

Setting the Stage and the First Session
- Read: Renegotiating Family Relationships text – Ch. 7
- Complete: discussion board – The Case of Sheila and John

Week 11 – November 4-10, 2013
Class meeting on November 7th

Negotiating to Secure Agreement
- Read: Renegotiating Family Relationships text – Ch. 8
- Class discussion and role play – The Case of Sheila and John

Week 12 – November 11-17, 2013
No class meeting on November 14th

Negotiating to Secure Agreement
- Read: Renegotiating Family Relationships text – Ch. 8
- Complete: discussion board – The Case of Sheila and John

Week 13 – November 18-24, 2013
Class meeting on November 21st

Special Applications and Considerations: The Road Less Traveled
- Read: Divorce and Family Mediation handouts – Chs. 13-17
- Complete: Small group exercise and role play
Week 14 – November 25-December 1, 2013
No class meeting on November 28th – Thanksgiving holiday – UNT closed

**Special Applications and Considerations: The Road Less Traveled**
- Read: *Divorce and Family Mediation* excerpts – Chs. 13-17
- Complete: discussion board

Week 15 – December 2-8, 2013
Class meeting on December 5th

**Research Outcomes**
- Read: *Renegotiating Family Relationships* text – Ch. 9
- Class discussion of research outcomes
- Class discussion of final assignment

Week 16 – December 9-13, 2013
No class meeting on December 12th

**How the Law Really Works In the Best Interest of the Child**
- Complete: final – The Case of Sheila and John
Course Evaluation
Toward the end of the semester, students will be able to complete a course survey at www.my.unt.edu. Please logon and select SETE.

Scholarly Expectations
All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical, particularly at the graduate level, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor.

Resources
UNT Portal: http://my.unt.edu
UNT Blackboard Learn Student Resources: Technical Support: http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/
UNT Library Information for Off-Campus Users:
http://www.library.unt.edu/services/for-special-audiences/offcampus/information-for-off-campus-users
UNT Computing and Information Technology Center:
http://citc.unt.edu/services-solutions/students
Computer Labs: General access computer lab information (including locations and hours of operation) can be located at: http://www.gacl.unt.edu/

Course Policies
Exercises/Assignments/Discussion Board Policy
Due dates for all course work are posted in the instructions connected to each assignment. Your online work should be submitted in the submission section and submitted by using the “Submit” button at the end of each assignment. Students should complete work in a Word document and copy, cut and paste it in the page available in BbL. Word or PDF documents that include a student’s work and are attached will not be accepted and graded. A student’s work may not be submitted at a later date without written documentation that justifies the missed deadline.

Late Work
Acceptance of and credit for late work is determined consistent with UNT policies and at the professor’s discretion where permitted.

Virtual Classroom Citizenship and Conduct
The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper netiquette when interacting with class members and the professor. Proper netiquette includes the following:

- Appropriate language; no foul or offensive language;
• Appropriate topics; no slurs having to do with race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, pregnancy, disability or apparent physical or emotional differences; and
• Common courtesy.

Incompletes
If a student wishes to request a grade of “Incomplete,” the student must:
• Have a passing grade in the course;
• Submit the request in writing as soon as possible during the semester and not later than one (1) week prior to the final exam;
• Submit the request to the instructor via BbL and receive written approval through BbL; and
• Complete the course not later than one (1) year in order to avoid an automatic replacement of the “I” with an “F”.

Copyright Notice
Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. Additional copyright information may be located at: http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies.

Undergraduate Online Course Attendance Policy
Students who attend classes regularly typically experience greater success than those students who do not attend regularly. Similarly, students who enroll in online courses also typically perform better by fully participating in the course.

Information about the University of North Texas’ Attendance Policy may be found at: http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2-5.

Administrative Withdrawal
Students may add this course or withdraw in accordance with the University’s policy currently in effect.

Syllabus Change Policy
Changes to the syllabus may be necessary at times. Communication of any changes will be made via an announcement or message tabs in BbL.

Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties
The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents
students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

UNT Policies
Student Conduct and Discipline
Please refer to the UNT Faculty Handbook or your department regarding the Student Code of Conduct Policy.

Academic Honesty Policy
Academic dishonesty is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with University policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to a grade of “F” in the course. Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. You will find the policy and procedures at http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm.

ADA Policy
If you have a condition that requires accommodation in this course, please notify the instructor during the first week of class. Any necessary or appropriate accommodations will be made provided that timely notice is received, and that the arrangement is consistent with recommendations from Disability Services, when applicable. Students who require this type of assistance should contact the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) at (940) 565-4323, or at TTY (940) 369-8652 to make appropriate arrangements. Information on the services provided by the ODA as well as application procedures is available at http://www.unt.edu/oda/index.html. Information on UNT’s policies related to disability accommodations is available at http://policy.unt.edu/policy/18-1-14.

Please note that disability accommodations are not retroactive. Accommodations will be made only after a disability is officially verified.

Student Behavior
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to provide instruction or with other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to cease such behavior. The instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including
university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses:

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at "Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f) (6) (i) (G)” and can be found buried within this document:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getcfr.cgi?TITLE=8&PART=214&SECTION=2&TYPE=TEXT

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.