LAWYERING IN SPANISH

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW
SPRING 2016

Course: Lawyering in Spanish
LAW 605
Section 329G

Instructor: Nicole M. Whitaker, Esq.
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Office Hours: Before or after class or by appointment

Days/Time: See Schedule of Classes

Location: Room assignments are available through MyUB.

Course Description:
Students will learn to communicate as a lawyer across substantive areas of the law such as immigration, criminal law, family law, personal injury, and business. Students will participate in mock client intake interviews, draft client correspondence, and engage in other real-world simulations in Spanish. The class will also discuss challenges and concerns specific to representing Spanish-speaking clients. While the development of Spanish legal vocabulary is essential to success in the course, it is not the focus of the class. The course will be conducted mainly in Spanish and students are required to be fluent in oral and written Spanish. Pre-requisites: Spanish Proficiency. Recommended: Immigration Law and Family Law are helpful but not required.

Course Materials:

- William Harvey, *Spanish for Attorneys & Paralegals* (The text comes with or without an audio CD. The audio CD is helpful for independent practice, but is not required for class.)
- Relevant articles, both in English and Spanish, downloaded from TWEN

Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the semester:

- Students will have a knowledge and understanding of the challenges and cultural dynamics that impact the representation of Spanish-speaking clients.
- Students will have the ability to recognize and resolve ethical and other professional dilemmas associated with the representation of Spanish-speaking clients.
- Students will be able to employ techniques to counsel Spanish-speaking clients in various areas of the law
- Students will have composed client correspondence and legal documents in Spanish.
- Students will have simulated client intake interviews and client counseling in Spanish.

- Students will have learned techniques for self-reflection such as peer- and self-assessment.

Grades:
15% Intake Interview Simulation
15% Document Translation Assignment
15% Client Counseling Simulation
15% Client Correspondence Assignment
20% Final Simulation Presentation
10% Class Participation

Course Expectations:
American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools establish guidelines for the amount of work students should expect to complete for each credit earned. Students should expect approximately one hour of classroom instruction and two hours of out-of-class work for each credit earned in a class, or an equivalent amount of work for other academic activities, such as simulations, externships, clinical supervision, co-curricular activities, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

Attendance:
Class attendance is a primary obligation of each student whose right to continued enrollment in the course and to take the examination is conditioned upon a record of attendance satisfactory to the professor. A student who exceeds the maximum allowed absences (generally 20% of class sessions) as illustrated below may be compelled to withdraw from the course, or may be barred from sitting for the final exam. Students who are forced to withdraw for exceeding the allowed absences may receive a grade of FA (failure due to excessive absence). This policy is consistent with American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools.

Regular Semester Hours		
Credit Hours	Meetings Per Week	
	1	2
2	2 absences	5 absences
3	2 absences	5 absences
4	--	5 absences

Course Website:
This course has a TWEN page that links to this syllabus, announcements, the class assignments, and other class materials. You are responsible for self-enrolling in the TWEN page and for checking it *regularly for course information.*

Computers:
Students may use laptop computers for class related purposes.

Class Cancellation:
If the instructor must cancel a class, notices will be sent to students via email and posted on the classroom door. If there is inclement weather, students should visit the University of Baltimore

web site or call the University's Snow Closing Line at (410) 837-4201. If the University is open, students should presume that classes are running on the normal schedule.

Academic Integrity:
Students are obligated to refrain from acts that they know or, under the circumstances, have reason to know will impair the academic integrity of the University and/or School of Law. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, misuse of materials, inappropriate communication about exams, use of unauthorized materials and technology, misrepresentation of any academic matter, including attendance, and impeding the Honor Code process. The School of Law Honor Code and information about the process is available at http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/policiesandprocedures/honor_code/.

Title IX Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination Policy:
The University of Baltimore's Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination policy is compliant with Federal laws prohibiting discrimination. Title IX requires that faculty, student employees and staff members report to the university any known, learned or rumored incidents of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking on the basis of sex, dating/intimate partner violence or sexual exploitation and/or related experiences or incidents. Policies and procedures related to Title IX and UB's nondiscrimination policies can be found at: http://www.ubalt.edu/titleix.

Disability Policy:
If you are a student with a documented disability who requires an academic accommodation, please contact Leslie Metzger, Director of Student Services, at 410-837-5623 or lmetzger@ubalt.edu.

ASSIGNMENTS

Class 1
Introduction of course, texts, syllabus
Discussion Question: What do you think are the challenges and considerations a lawyer must face when working with a Spanish-speaking client?

Class 2
Cultural Differences
Explaining Attorney-Client Confientiality
Approaching Fees
Combating Notario Fraud

Class 3
Intake Interview
Discussion Question: What information should we collect from every potential client? Does the answer depend on the practice area?
In Class Preparation for Intake Interview Simulation

Class 4

Intake Interview Simulation Demonstrations
Family Law Discussion
Introduction of Document Translation Assignment

Class 5
Considerations in Document Translation
False Cognate Drills

Class 6
In-Class Peer Evaluations of Document Translation Assignment
Criminal Law Discussion
Introduction of Client Counseling Assignment

Class 7
In-Class Preparation for Client Counseling Assignment

Class 8
Client Counseling Demonstrations
Immigration Law Discussion
Introduction of Final Simulation Assignment

Class 9
How to Correspond with Spanish Speaking Clients
Introduction of Client Correspondence Assignment

Class 10
Peer Evaluation of Client Correspondence Assignment
Personal Injury Law Discussion
Sign Up for Final Simulation

Class 11
Client Correspondence Assignment Due
Business, Finance & Real Estate Law Discussion

Class 12
Final Simulation Assignment Presentations

Class 13
Final Simulation Assignment Presentations

Class 14
Final Simulation Assignment Presentations