



Course Outline

Course number	RBE306					
Course title	Alternative dispute resolution method - Mediation					
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 Latvian credits)					
Total hours	80					
Lecture hours	14					
Seminar hours	18					
Course level	Bachelor					
Prerequisites	None					
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	X	Free elective	

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Ulla Zumente - Steele	MSW, BA Philosophy	Visiting lecturer

COURSE TEACHERS

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Ulla Zumente - Steele	MSW, BA Philosophy	Visiting lecturer
Julia Radanova	Dr.iur	Visiting lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

Mediation as a distinct method of conflict resolution is increasingly being used to prevent and resolve various disputes, and has particular characteristics on the spectrum of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes. Students will learn the main theoretical and legal aspects of mediation, the basics of conflict psychology and communication techniques. The course teachers are practising mediators and trainers, and will apply a variety of inter-active teaching methods to provide students with the opportunity to integrate theory and practical application of the essential skills necessary for mediators. Experiential learning through role plays will be carried out under teacher's supervision, guidance and feedback. Great importance throughout the course will be given to structured reflection by the students individually and in small groups.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has the following main objectives:

Knowledge:

1. Students have obtained the basic theoretical knowledge about the concept of mediation, are able to define its main principles and describe the stages of mediation.
2. Students are aware of the basics of conflict theory and can identify the main communication techniques applicable to mediation process.
3. Students are aware of the main legal regulations relevant to mediation and can recognize the basic ethical norms.
4. Students have gained basic knowledge of mediation applicability to specific conflict cases.

Skills:

1. Students have improved communication skills such as active listening, summarizing and paraphrasing.
2. Students have improved self-reflection and discussion skills.
3. Students have strengthened skills necessary for teamwork.

Competences:

1. Students are able to explain mediation process and core principles.
2. Students are able to apply basic communication techniques and structure the mediation process according to stages.
3. Students are able to analyze and assess mediation applicability to selected conflict cases.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Seminar or take-home tasks, written work-sheets.	30%
Participation in role plays.	40%
Final exam (online): theoretical questions and case analysis.	30%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass the course, a student must successfully pass each of the following components:

- complete five seminar and/or take-home tasks; when applicable to the task, submit to the teacher written work-sheets;
- take part in at least three role play sessions;
- submit completed final exam on the portal.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	<i>Main subjects</i>	<i>Planned hours</i>
1	The main methods of alternative dispute resolution. The concept of mediation, the main principles, models and process of mediation. Mediation in selected fields: business, cross-border family, criminal cases. Conflict theory and psychology.	8
2	Legal regulation of mediation. Mediation clause and mediation agreement. Online mediation. Ethics in mediation	6
3	Skills building with practical exercises and role plays	18