

Alternative Dispute Resolution
LAW 348 (CRN#20140)
Spring 2026

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COURSE SCHEDULE/MEETING TIMES:

Thursday 6:05pm - 8:05pm

OFFICE HOURS: after class

RECOMMENDED TEXT:

Folberg, Golann, Stipanowich, Reynolds & Schmitz, *Resolving Disputes: Theory, Practice, and Law* (3rd/4th edition)

COURSE OVERVIEW/DESCRIPTION :

This course introduces various forms of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms –negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and their hybrid forms. Theoretical discussions will be supplemented with in-class simulation exercises to help you understand their differences. About a third of the classes will focus on the latest development in ADR including the presentation and discussion of your research topics. Two guest lectures will be scheduled.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Understand the differences of major ADR mechanisms
- Appreciate various styles of negotiation
- Experience various forms of ADR mechanisms through simulations
- Appreciate how psychology affects the dispute resolution process
- Learn, Research and Write about the latest developments in ADR

BASIS OF EVALUATION & ASSESSMENTS:

- Class attendance, participation and group presentation 15%
- 3 reflection papers (500 words max for each paper; this can be about anything that you have read in the casebook, learned in class and/or observed in simulations) 15%
- Research paper and presentation 70% [recommended length: 8-18 pages double space]
 - 15 pts for relevance to ADR course materials
 - 15 pts for research (depth and quality)
 - 15 pts for analysis (new idea/contribution; critical evaluation of the literature)
 - 15 pts for writing (organization and presentation of ideas, ease of reading)
 - 10 pts for in-class presentation of your paper

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS AND COURSE RULES/STRUCTURE:

Please come to each class having completed all assigned readings.

COURSE SCHEDULE (*please refer to Canvas site for the latest version*)

The first nine classes will introduce the three main methods of ADR. Simulation exercises will be conducted in each class to help you experience various methods of resolving disputes. Two guest lectures will be scheduled (date/venue TBA).

Class 1 (Jan 15): Overview (pp. 1-25)

Class 2: Negotiation - Psychology (pp. 29-44)

Class 3: Negotiation I - Style (pp. 45-71 + excerpt)

Class 4: Negotiation II – Style (same as last week)

Class 5: Mediation – Overview (pp. 185-209)

Class 6: Mediation – Skills I (pp. 210-226)

Class 7: Mediation – Skills II (pp. 254-268)

Class 8: Arbitration – Overview (pp. 427-456); Research Project Discussion

(Spring Recess)

Class 9: Law of Arbitration pp. 509-532

Class 10: Guess Lecture 1

Class 11: Guest Lecture 2

No class on Mar 12 (Spring Recess)

Apr 9 Student Presentation I

Apr 16 Student Presentation II

Apr 23 Research & Reflection Papers Due (upload on Canvas)

EMAIL COMMUNICATION: Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including communications related to this class.

ATTENDANCE:

Regular and punctual attendance are required to earn academic credit. Attendance requirements for academic credit will follow the policies set forth in Academic Regulation 4-1. Should a student anticipate the possibility of missing a substantial number of class sessions (e.g. a serious illness), he or she should immediately contact the Assistant Dean, Student Academic Affairs. There is no substituted work available for this course (see AR 4-1.2).

CLASS RECORDINGS PROHIBITED:

No portion of a class session or an examination may be preserved by means of a recording device such as an audio recording device or camera (AR 4-2.2). Any exceptions to this policy must be expressly permitted in writing by me. Requests to access a particular meeting to accommodate a COVID-related absence should be made to the Assistant Dean, Student Academic Affairs.

EXAM CONFLICTS: In accordance with AR 4-4.1, excuses and requests for permission not to sit for an examination when scheduled must be presented, with appropriate documentation, to the Assistant Dean, Student Academic Affairs. Except in emergencies, such requests should be presented no later than two weeks before the date of the examination. All requests for extensions or rescheduling of deadlines will be processed through the Assistant Dean, Student Academic Affairs, whose decision will be final.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: It is expected that students adhere to the Antonin Scalia Law School Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing. This includes a student obligation to never represent the work of another as their own, and to never provide or accept unauthorized assistance on any school related assignment. The Honor Code is available here: [Honor Code](#).

CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATIONS: Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please visit [Disability Services](#) for detailed information about the Disabilities Registration Process. Faculty may not receive or respond to requests for an accommodation. All requests must be handled by the office of Disability Services. You may contact Disability Services directly via email at ods@gmu.edu or phone at (703) 993-2474. If you have any questions about how in-class or testing accommodations are implemented at the law school, please contact the Assistant Dean, Student Academic Affairs for more information.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

STUDENT HONOR CODE

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

UNIVERSITY LIFE: University Life provides student support resources such as **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**, **Student Health Services (SHS)**, and the **Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC)**. For more information about University Life on the Arlington Campus, please visit: [Mason Square](#)