COURSE NAME: Lawyering Skills: Counseling and Advising

COURSE NUMBER: Law 8704

PROFESSOR: Belian

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: 

COURSE BOOKS: To be determined

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

Grades will be based on general preparedness as evidenced in class discussion and in-class simulations, which will be videotaped and critiqued.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

A study of the theories, function, and application of the most commonly used lawyering skills, client interviewing, counseling, and advising.

COURSE CONTENT:

Specific skills to be developed include identifying, analyzing, and diagnosing legal issues and problems; use of interpersonal dynamics and effective communication to identify client goals; strategies for factual investigation, including planning for depositions and other witness interviews; generating and evaluating alternative solutions and courses of action, including preventive and corrective strategies in the context of ongoing client relationships; evaluation of ends/means considerations; and methods and techniques for conveying options to clients and assisting in client decision-making.

Course draws from fields of communication and psychology as well as law. Readings will focus not only on the individual attorney-client relationship but also on the legal system generally as it affects the emotional and psychological well-being of all who come into contact with it.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

• Essential for any student who anticipates working with clients.

• Especially helpful for students planning to work directly with individual clients, but also very instructive for those working in larger corporate settings.