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| **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED** | Fall or Spring |
| **CLINICAL COURSE COMPONENT** | Dispute Systems Design Clinical Seminar |
| **COURSE CREDITS** | 2 classroom credits |
| **CLINICAL CREDITS** | 3, 4 or 5 clinical credits |
| **LOCATION** | HLS |
| **REGISTRATION TYPE** | Helios |

**TYPES OF CASES/CLIENTS**

The Dispute Systems Design Clinic works with organizations and communities that present us with a conflict management challenge and are committed to engaging that challenge effectively and equitably. We believe systems should be informed by the people they affect, so we emphasize bringing all the stakeholders to the table. Informed by their perspectives, dispute system design theory, and best practices in the field, our students help their clients envision more just and inclusive systems. ​

Our practice areas include:

* Community Engagement & Dialogue Across Differences
* Court-Related Programs & Access to Justice
* Global Development & Peacebuilding
* Strategic Negotiation & Conflict Consultation

Our clients include U.S.-based and international non-profit organizations; communities and community groups; court systems and government agencies; and private companies.

For a sampling of past projects, please visit <https://hnmcp.law.harvard.edu/clients/>

**SKILLS**

Students will have the opportunity to build the following skills in their day-to-day work:

* Designing stakeholder-centered, systems-oriented approaches to engaging conflict
* Gathering a wide range of perspectives through interviews, focus groups, surveys, and other qualitative research methods
* Managing client relationships
* Facilitating meetings
* Writing and presenting deliverables
* Managing complex projects
* Working as a team

**TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE**

The work in the DSD Clinic is self-scheduled among the students and their Clinical Instructor. Students typically work on teams with 1-2 other students and a clinical instructor, meeting weekly as a team and weekly with their client. While a “typical day” varies widely, here are two snapshots of what life in the DSD Clinic might be like over the course of several days in a week, at two different stages of a project:

**During the first half of the semester:** Your team will be gathering information (through interviews, focus groups, surveys, and site visits or other forms of direct observation) and conducting background research on the context of the challenge your client is facing.

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| **Day 1** | **Day 2** | **Day 3** |
| **9:00-10:00 am:** Interview stakeholder  **10:00-10:15 am:** Organize interview notes and debrief with team and Clinical Instructor  **2:00 pm:** Weekly meeting with teammates and Clinical Instructor  **3:30-4:30:** Meet with teammates to discuss work allocation, brainstorm questions for upcoming interview protocols, and discuss and refine the question presented of the project  **8:00-9:00 pm:** Draft interview protocol for next week’s interviews with experts, send to Clinical Instructor for their feedback | **9:15-10:00 am**: Draft and send agenda to client for weekly check-in meeting, prepare for interviews  **10:00 am-12:00 pm:** Conduct two interviews with stakeholders  **1:00-3:00 pm:** Attend Clinical Seminar  **6:00-8:00 pm:** Conduct secondary research on similar conflict management systems and input article summaries and notes into shared research document, answer Teams messages from teammates and supervisors | **11:00-12:00 pm:** Facilitate weekly check-in meeting with client  **12:00-12:20 pm:** Debrief with teammates and clinical instructor and allocate next steps  **2:00-3:00 pm:** Send outreach emails requesting interviews with experts in the field of conflict management, answer emails from stakeholders  **8:00-9:00 pm:** Conduct research on other groups that have implemented similar programs, input notes into shared document |

**During the second half of the semester:** Your team will be synthesizing the information you gathered, developing findings and recommendations that you can share with your client, and preparing your final deliverable.

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| **Day 1** | **Day 2** | **Day 3** |
| **9:00-11:30am:** Whiteboarding session with teammates and Clinical Instructor to synthesize information from interviews, articulate a list of findings and proposed recommendations, and identify additional research and outreach needed  **2:00-3:00 pm:** Weekly meeting with teammates and Clinical Instructor  **3:00-3:30pm:** Meet with teammates to draft agenda for client meeting | **9:00-9:15 am:** Send client agenda for weekly meeting  **11:00-12:00 pm:** Meet with teammates to allocate remaining outreach and research  **1:00-3:00 pm:** Present your proposed recommendations in the Clinical Seminar; gather feedback from your classmates  **7:00-7:30 pm:** Communicate with teammates over Teams to share notes and ideas from Clinical Seminar feedback | **2:00-4:00 pm:** Meet with teammates to sketch out an outline of the final report based on the findings and proposed recommendations; develop a work plan for drafting and completing the final report by the deadline  **4:00-4:30 pm:** Send Clinical Instructor the outline for their feedback, along with questions your team had when drafting  **6:00-8:00 pm:** Read articles sent by Clinical Instructor on dispute systems design theory |