

Oral Advocacy

Syllabus

Sunday, 1:15 – 3:45

1/18/08 – 4/26/08

Instructor: Chris Carlson
Email: chris@narrativepros.com²

Phone: (612) 803-6843¹

Credits: 2 Credits (Pass/Fail).

Course Description:

This class provides a safe and stimulating environment for developing the essential skills of forensic oratory—whether the student is a seasoned speaker or a public speaking novice. The class explores this essential legal advocacy skill through the **study** of rhetoric and the **practice** of oratory through the application of theatrical techniques and philosophies.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course the student will

1. **Understand** the mental and physical components of forensic oratory;
2. Develop an **awareness** of his/her own and others' oratorical skills; and
3. **Practice** various exercises to influence the oratorical skill development.

Required Texts:

- Michael Fontham et al., *Persuasive Written and Oral Advocacy in Trial and Appellate Courts* (2^d ed. 2007);
- David Miller et al., *Persuasive Written and Oral Advocacy: Case File I* (2002);
- Antonia Scalia & Bryan A. Garner, *Making Your Case: The Art of Persuading Judges* (2008).

A copy of the **Fontham** text will be placed on **reserve** in the library.

Recommended Text:

- David Ball, *Theater Tips and Strategies for Jury Trials* (any edition).

Additional Materials:

Materials will also be distributed through the use of the TWEN web site:

<http://lawschool.westlaw.com/manage/homepage.aspx?courseid=70896>

Instructional Methods:

This course will use lecture, discussion, class participation and presentation.

¹ In lieu of office hours, you may contact me by phone or email Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and I will respond within 24 hours. Upon arrangement, I can also meet in person prior to or after regular class time.

² Please note that this email is the only email to which I will reply to on a consistent and reliable basis.

Course Outline:

#	Date	Topic	Anticipated Reading			Optional
			Scalia	Fontham	Miller	
1	1/18	Philosophies of Law, Art, and Persuasion; Class approach, philosophy; Piece Assignment;	Intro.; §§55-71	Chs. 1, 6	pp. 1-8	
2	1/25	Rhetoric vs. Oratory; Goals of Oratory; <i>Oratorical Role Models.</i>	§§72-88	Chs. 2, 7		
3	2/1	Value of Commanding Your Message; <i>Mnemonic technique.</i>	§§89-100		pp.9-32	Ball Chs. 2, 8; App. B.
4	2/8	Physics, Psychology & Physiology of Oratory. <i>Listening to Oneself</i>				
5	2/15	<u>TBD</u>				Fontham Chs. 3, 4, 5
6	2/22	<u>TBD</u>				
7	3/1	Midterm: Motion Argument & Staged Reading of Piece				
8	3/8	<u>Role of Emotion;</u> Self awareness; <i>Incorporating feedback.</i>			pp.56-90	
9	3/15	Conditioning in Executing; Harmonizing elements; Narrative Construction: <i>Forwards Backwards</i>			pp. 116-183	Ball, Chs. 1, 11; Apps. D, H.
10	3/22	Improvisational Tenants; <i>Voir Dire Exercise</i>	§§101-115			
	3/29	NO CLASS				
11	4/5	Scene work.; Movement. <i>Appellate Exercise</i>		Ch. 11		
	4/12	NO CLASS				
12	4/19	Rehearsal & Early final option.				
13	4/26	Final: Opening Arguments & Pieces				

Course Requirements:

1. **Attend** all classes;
2. **Participate** in class discussion and exercises; and constructive critiques of presentations;
3. **Present** (from memory) a one minute Shakespeare Piece to the full class; and an introduction to an opening argument.

Grading & Attendance

This class is **pass/fail**. Successful completion of this course depends on the completion of the above requirements. As noted, attendance to each class is mandatory and directly factors into students' grades.

Academic Rule 108 establishes faculty prerogatives within its framework of required regular, punctual, and prepared attendance. "Excessive absences" shall be defined as two times the credit value of this course; i.e., four hours of absence is excessive in a 2 credit course.

Due to the practical nature of this course, there is no form of makeup work for absences. Students will be removed from the course for grossly excessive absences (in conjunction with the Associate Dean).

Final:

The final will take place in class on the date scheduled above. At the discretion of the instructor and student, some students may begin performance of the final the week prior to the date scheduled.

Each student will be assigned a one-minute theatrical Piece to present to the class. Students **must** memorize the Piece and present it to the class.

Each student will also prepare and present **from memory** the introductory section of an opening argument based on the scenario as presented in the Miller text, Case File I.

Finally, each student will be required to participate in critiquing other students' performances. The critiques will be honest, constructive, and respectful. Critiques shall include **both** good and bad aspects of a presentation.