

Syllabus for Trial Advocacy - Fall Term, 2023
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Learning Goals, Outcomes and Assessment for Trial Advocacy:

Learning Goals: The goal for this course is for students to learn the basic legal rules applicable to being a successful courtroom litigator. Students will also be exposed (where circumstances permit) to interactive exercises in all aspects of the trial of a criminal and civil case.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to conduct a successful voir dire, present an opening statement and closing argument, understand and conduct a thorough direct examination, cross-examination and be able to qualify an expert witness. Students will also gain an enhanced learning of the Rules of Evidence based on the text and intent behind the rules.

Assessment: Class attendance and participation (by virtue of either cold calling or volunteering) will also be taken into account in calculating a student's ability to successfully pass this course. As this class is very interactive, students will be expected to have prepared for class exercises and the role-playing exercises necessary to become effective courtroom advocates.

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
08/21/23	Introduction, Trials - Overview Objections	<i>*Nutshell pages 344-447; Class Overview- Introduction to Course-Matthew Morrison, Esq.</i>
08/28/23	Use of Exhibits	<i>Class Exercises</i>
09/11/23	Jury Selection and Voir Dire	<i>*The Journal of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, Volume 22 Number 4, 2011</i>
09/18/23	Lecture: Direct and Cross Examination	<i>The Journal of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, Volume 22 Number 4, 2011</i>
09/25/23	Direct and Cross Examination II	<i>Nutshell pages 139- 197</i>
10/02/23	Direct and Cross Examination III	<i>Nutshell pages 240- 280</i>
10/10/23 (Tuesday)	Impeachment	<i>Nutshell pages 290-333</i>
10/16/23	Impeachment, Redirect	<i>Nutshell pages 335-343</i>
10/23/23	Experts, Arguing Legal Positions	<i>Nutshell pages 449-480</i>
10/30/23	Opening Statements (All Motions in Limine to be filed)	<i>The Journal of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, Volume 22 Number 4, 2011 Nutshell pages 92-135</i>
11/06/23	Closing Arguments (All Oppositions to Motions in Limine to be filed)	<i>Nutshell pages 485-511</i>

11/13/23	Motions in Limine	<i>The Journal of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association</i> , Volume 22 Number 4, 2011
11/20/23	Trial Preparation	* <i>The Art and Science of Mastering the Jury Trial</i>
11/27/23 – 12/08/23	Trials – Format, Location and mode TBD	<i>Nutshell pages 1 -130</i>

*The major reading resources will be:

--*Trial Advocacy in a Nutshell* – 6th Edition

--*The Journal of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association*, Volume 22, Number 4, 2011, can be purchased directly from the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association (VTLA) at:

<https://www.vtla.com/index.cfm?pg=store&sa=ViewDetails&ItemID=12933&cat=2531>

--*The Art and Science of Mastering the Jury Trial*, also available to purchase from the VTLA at:

<https://www.vtla.com/index.cfm?pg=store&sa=ViewDetails&ItemID=12427&cat=371>