

Advocacy Survey



Fall 2017

Advocacy Survey
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Course Information and Syllabus

Instructor: Jim Lawrence

Email: jelawrence@uh.edu

Office Hours: I am in the office Monday-Friday – all day most weeks. Students are encouraged to drop by anytime with questions. Students may also email me to set up a specific meeting time.

Textbook: None. Professor will distribute reading material as needed.

The goal of this course is to expose you to the spectrum of legal advocacy, beginning from the moment a prospective client enters your office and ending with an appeal of your case. In each segment, we will 1) survey both the relevant statutory and case law, 2) examine the process and procedure required for attorneys/parties to move through each segment, and 3) learn the skill sets necessary to effectively advocate in each segment, including application and presentation of one skill per segment.

Three foundational elements will be used throughout the semester as basis for class discussion and the Journal Entries. The elements are: 1) the story of the case, 2) where the dispute falls on the 9-stage model of conflict escalation, and 3) how issues in the dispute impact each student.

Even though there is no bound text for this course, there will be reading assignments – which will either be sent to you as a .pdf or which can be accessed through Lexis/Nexis or Westlaw. There will be 5 data points in the grading rubric, and they are:

- 1) Professionalism and Participation (9% of total grade)**
- 2) Journal Entry #1 (15% of total grade) – Negotiation Advocacy**
Due before class starts on October 4th
- 3) Journal Entry #2 (27% of total grade) – Mediation Advocacy**
Due before class starts on November 1st
- 4) Journal Entry #3 (39% of total grade) – Trial Advocacy**
Due date: November 22nd by 5 PM
- 5) Skill Assessment (10% of total grade)**

Additional Course Requirements:

- 1) Attend the Final Trial for the Law Center's Trial Advocacy class (Saturday, mid-November).

Course Foundations

Aug 22	Class 1:	Introduction, The Psychology of a Dispute
Aug 24	Class 2:	Assessments
Aug 29	Class 3:	Three Points of Focus: Storytelling, 9 Stages of Conflict Escalation, and Deep Structure

Pre-Trial Advocacy Module

Aug 31	Class 4:	Pre-trial Advocacy
Sept 5	Class 5:	Pre-trial Advocacy
Sept 7	Class 6:	Pre-trial Advocacy
Sept 12	Class 7:	Pre-trial Advocacy

Mediation Advocacy Module

Sept 14	Class 8:	Negotiation Advocacy
Sept 19	Class 9:	Negotiation Advocacy
Sept 21	Class 10:	Negotiation Advocacy
Sept 26	Class 11:	Negotiation Advocacy (Multi-party negotiation for journal entry)

Arbitration Advocacy Module

Sept 28	Class 12:	Arbitration Advocacy
Oct 3	<i>Journal Entry #1 due before Class 13 starts</i>	
Oct 3	Class 13:	Arbitration Advocacy (Guest Speaker)
Oct 5	Class 14:	Arbitration Advocacy
Oct 10	Class 15:	Arbitration Advocacy

Negotiation Advocacy Module

Oct 12	Class 16:	Mediation Advocacy
Oct 17	Class 17:	Mediation Advocacy
Oct 19	Class 18:	Mediation Advocacy
Oct 24	Class 19:	Mediation Advocacy (Mediation Demo, guest speaker)

Appellate Advocacy Module

Oct 26 Class 20: Appellate Advocacy

Oct 31: Journal Entry #2 due before Class 21 starts

Oct 31 Class 21: Appellate Advocacy (Guest Speaker)

Nov 2 Class 22: Appellate Advocacy

Nov 7 Class 23: Appellate Advocacy

Trial Advocacy Module

Nov 9 Class 24: Trial Advocacy

Nov 14 Class 25: Trial Advocacy

Nov 16 Class 26: Trial Advocacy (Guest Speaker)

Nov 21 Class 27: Trial Advocacy

Nov 22 Journal Entry #3 due by 5 PM