

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **GOVT 476**

#### **PERSUASIVE ARGUMENTATION FOR LAWYERS**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will introduce undergraduate students to the basic principles and skills of advocacy in the American courtroom. Students will study principles of analysis, reasoning, evidence, organization and presentation needed to develop and offer legal arguments. The course will cover both pre-court preparation of legal arguments as well as the skills of identifying evidential issues and then creating persuasive arguments to support legal theories.

#### **RATIONALE**

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the introductory skills and techniques necessary to perform in a courtroom. Students will learn how to analyze, prepare, and present legal theories at the trial and appellate court levels. It is important for students in the School of Government to understand the fundamental steps in pre-trial and trial preparation, how to identify legal issues, and the skills necessary to create persuasive arguments.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Develop essential skills for crafting persuasive legal arguments based on proper legal research and analysis.
- B. Master the methods and techniques of persuasive advocacy.

- C. Apply persuasive advocacy methods and techniques in multiple legal settings.
- D. Recognize non-ethical forms of persuasion and guard against their effect and use in legal practice.
- E. Articulate a persuasive argument that meets the substantive and ethical standards of legal advocacy.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist  
After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (3)  
Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to submit a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 250 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 1 classmate's thread. Each reply must be at least 125 words.
- D. Activities (4)  
After reviewing the assigned module/week's Reading & Study material, the student will complete a corresponding activity in which he or she will respond to prompts, supporting his or her answers with information from the Reading & Study material and at least 2 scholarly sources. Responses must be well organized, use proper grammar, and follow current Bluebook format. Each Activity must be no longer than 2 pages.
- E. Field Experience Paper  
The student will write a 4–6-page research-based paper in current Bluebook format that focuses on a field experience. The paper must include at least 5 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.
- F. Tests (2)  
Each test will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned module/week and may incorporate material from prior modules/weeks. Each test will be open-book/open-notes and contain 7 essay questions. The time limit for each test will be 1 hour and 30 minutes.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES****A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist		10
Discussion Board Forums	(3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Activities	(4 at 75 pts ea)	300
Field Experience Paper		200
Tests	(2 at 100 pts ea)	200
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

**B. Scale**

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

**C. Disability Assistance**

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **GOVT 476**

Textbooks: Beazley, *A Practical Guide to Appellate Advocacy* (2014).  
 Mauet, *Trial Techniques and Trials* (2017).  
 Scalia & Garner, *Making Your Case: The Art of Persuading Judges* (2008).  
 Verlinden, *Critical Thinking and Everyday Argument* (2005).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Mauet: chs. 1–2 Verlinden: ch. 6 1 presentation 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 100
<b>2</b>	Mauet: chs. 3–4 Verlinden: chs. 7–8 2 presentations	Activity 1 Test 1	75 100
<b>3</b>	Mauet: chs. 5–6 Verlinden: chs. 9–10 2 presentations	DB Forum 2	100
<b>4</b>	Mauet: chs. 9, 12 Verlinden: chs. 11, 13 3 presentations	Activity 2 Test 2	75 100
<b>5</b>	Beazley: chs. 2–5 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 3	100
<b>6</b>	Beazley: chs. 8–9, 11, 13 1 presentation 1 website	Activity 3	75
<b>7</b>	Scalia & Garner: pp. 1–136 1 presentation 1 website	Field Experience Paper	200
<b>8</b>	Scalia & Garner: pp. 137–206 1 presentation 1 website	Activity 4	75
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.