ADVOCACY in INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

with **PROF. SILBERMAN**

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MONDAYS, 5:45–7:45 PM

McDONOUGH HALL (TBD)

Spring 2026 • Georgetown Law

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GREETINGS

WANT TO LEARN HOW TO PRACTICE?

That's why I teach this course: to offer students a taste of the real world of advocacy in international arbitration.

Below, you will find an overview of the course, a preview of the lesson plans, and other useful information. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

I look forward to working with you this semester | MS

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COURSE OVERVIEW

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BACKGROUND

Students often approach me and ask: “What is it really like to practice law in your field?”

This semester, I’ll help you to see for yourself, by guiding you incrementally through a simulated arbitration.

WHEN + WHERE

Mondays
5.45–7.45pm

McDonough Hall
Room TBD

PROFESSOR

Mallory Silberman
Bio | Email

Teaching Assistant
Momin Mohsin | Email

OFFICE HOURS*

Mondays
4.30–5.30pm
and alternate times by appointment
* please email to arrange

Week by week, the fictional matter will move forward, and (with the help of class sessions that prepare you for the task) you will tackle different aspects and various stages of advocacy — beginning at the “pitch” phase and then progressing toward a hearing.

As a part of this process, you will practice hundreds of skills, from reading into a case and evaluating priorities to working with clients, crafting short written arguments, analyzing evidence, and delivering presentations.

Your grade will be a function of (i) your participation and engagement during class this semester (15%), and (ii) your performance across a series of assignments (85%).

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LOGISTICS

fyi: class sessions are **not** recorded.

ABOUT GRADING

There is no exam in this class.

Instead, you will handle mock casework — ten different micro **Assignments** designed to replicate little pieces of an advocate's day job.

Just like in the real world, each Assignment is evaluated on the basis of (i) the nature of the task, and (ii) a broad range of factors, including cohesion, clarity, presentation, depth, timeliness, effectiveness, and utility.

The maximum possible score on each individual Assignment is 20 points.

Your scores will be communicated to you privately on an ongoing basis.

- NOTES -

More info on Assignments, including the deadlines and modalities of submission, will be provided during class.

Extensions are not typically granted* — and late submissions will incur a ten-point deduction.

Group-wide feedback is shared during class; personalized reviews are available (by appt.) at Office Hours.

LAPTOP POLICY

Apart from Class 03 (when you will practice taking handwritten notes), you are generally welcome to use a laptop during class.

ACCOMMODATIONS

As a reminder, any student in need of an accommodation should contact the Office of Accessibility Services.

* You are welcome to request one but bear the burden of persuasion

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course has four primary goals:

A

TO EXPLORE THE MANY DIMENSIONS OF ADVOCACY

In the real world, advocacy goes beyond delivering oral arguments. Thus, this semester, we will work many types of skills (communication, problem-solving, collaborative, critical thinking, strategic, and practical).

B

TO HELP STRENGTHEN YOUR INTUITION AND INSTINCTS

Judgment and s*avoir-faire* are imperative "muscles" for an advocate. And so, in this class, one of the aims is to strengthen them (and, more broadly, grow your instincts) by mentoring you through a mix of scenarios, tasks, and exercises.

C

TO TEACH YOU ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Even though the primary focus this semester is on advocacy, along the way, we will touch on various different aspects of international arbitration (from law and procedure to history, practice, and ethics).

D

TO EXPAND YOUR PORTFOLIO OF SAMPLE WORK PRODUCT

In addition to feedback on Assignments — and the lessons and tips imparted to you during class — you will also walk away with something more tangible: a diverse set of new items for your "advocacy" portfolio.

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LESSON PLANS

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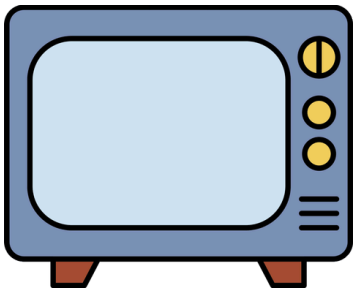
PREPARATION

OBSERVE



TRANSLATION

Do your homework: Watch a comedy special.

FINE PRINT

Yes, really. ***Any*** special — your choice.

TIMING

Before Class 01.

ATTENTION

Don't skip the credits!

ORIENTATION

01 REPORT

MONDAY, 12 JANUARY

ROADMAP

Introductions // Course Overview // Discussion:

What is advocacy?

AFTER CLASS ▼

REVIEW Correspondence + Let's Talk About Writing

No class session next week.

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FOUNDATION

02 TRAIN

MONDAY, 26 JANUARY

PROGRAM

MS Office Boot Camp

PRACTICE | PRESENCE | AWARENESS | SITUATION | CREDIBILITY | CALLS | EMAIL | RAPPORT | LINGO | ETIQUETTE | PROJECT MANAGEMENT

AFTER CLASS ▼

Complete Assignment #1: MULTITASK

NOTE More details to come (during class).

EDIFICATION

03 STUDY

MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY

FOCUS

Background + Basics: International Arbitration

AFTER CLASS ▼

Complete Assignment #2: PROCESS

TECH Class 03 is old-school: please bring paper and a pen(cil) to take handwritten notes.

By contrast, Assignment #2 is new-age — you are welcome to use AI on this one.

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INFORMATION

04 PLOT

MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY

SYNOPSIS

// **Delve into fact pattern**

// **Begin to map out case strategy**

AFTER CLASS ▼

READ *Tokios Tokelés v. Ukraine* decision, pp. 1–30 // dissent, pp. 1–19

TWIST Class is on Thursday next week.

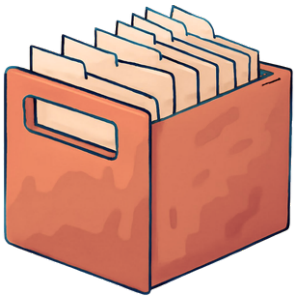
ORGANIZATION

05 AUDIT

THURSDAY, 19 FEBRUARY

INVENTORY

Rhetorical Tool Hunt // Research Lesson



AFTER CLASS ▼

Complete Assignment #3: CONTEST

PRACTICE SLEUTHING INTERPRETATION
COMPARISON DISSECTION MATCHING
LABELS PERSPECTIVE OBJECTIVITY

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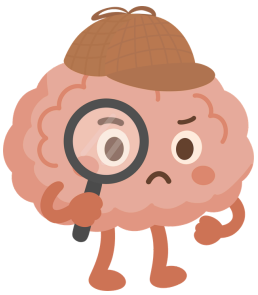
INVESTIGATION

06 CHECK

MONDAY, 23 FEBRUARY



DETAILS

// **Deciphering Claims** Game

// **Wild Card** Workshop

PRACTICE | TESTING | CURIOSITY | UNPACKING | DETECTION | CREATIVITY | BRAINSTORMING | IMPROV

AFTER CLASS ▼

Complete Assignment #4: ASK

NOTICE No class next week (spring break).

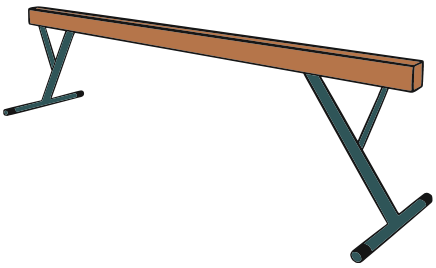
COORDINATION

07 BALANCE

MONDAY, 9 MARCH

DEAL

Negotiating Procedure + Logistics



AFTER CLASS ▼

Complete Assignment #5: REASON

PRACTICE | FORECASTS | OUTREACH | INPUT | THREADING NEEDLES | EMPATHY | DRAFTING | CALCULATION | LOGIC | EDITING | DIPLOMACY

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CORROBORATION

08 DIG

MONDAY, 16 MARCH

EXTRACT

// **Examine witness statements**

// **Analyze documentary evidence**

AFTER CLASS ▼

Complete Assignment #6: DEMONSTRATE

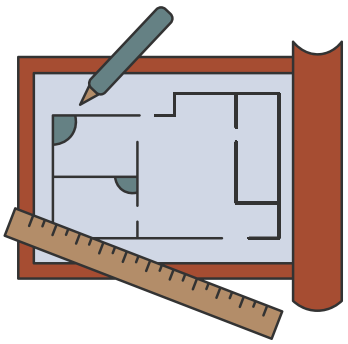
EXPRESSION

09 DESIGN

MONDAY, 23 MARCH

BLUEPRINT

Case-Building // Word-Smithing



AFTER CLASS ▼

Complete Assignment #7: PRODUCE

PRACTICE JARGON MESSAGING TONE
TROUBLE-SHOOTING SUBSTANCE FORM
CONNECTION CARE CODE-SWITCHING

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ADAPTATION

10 ADJUST

MONDAY, 30 MARCH

MECHANICS

Visual Aid Lab // What Happens at Hearings

PRACTICE | ILLUSTRATION | DISTILLATION | FOLLOWING | GUIDING | CRITIQUING

AFTER CLASS ▼

Complete Assignment #8: COUNSEL

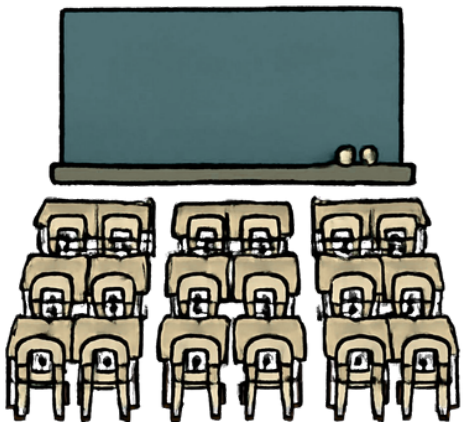
COLLABORATION

11 ASSEMBLE

MONDAY, 6 APRIL

SPECS

Guest Speakers:
Former students come share their perspectives with the group



AFTER CLASS ▼

Rehearse for Assignment #9: DELIVER

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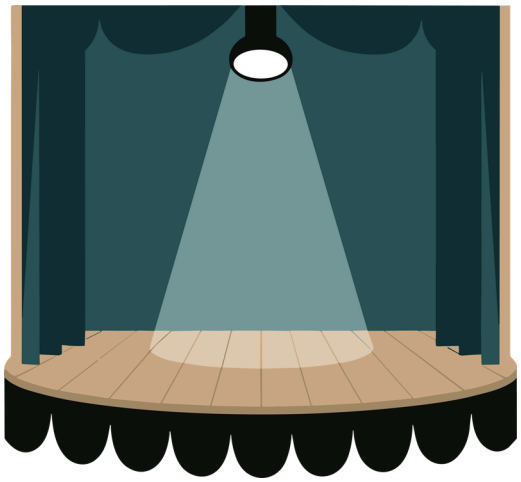
PRESENTATION

12 PERFORM

MONDAY, 13 APRIL



STORY

Opening Statements

AFTER CLASS ▼

Complete Assignment #10: EVALUATE

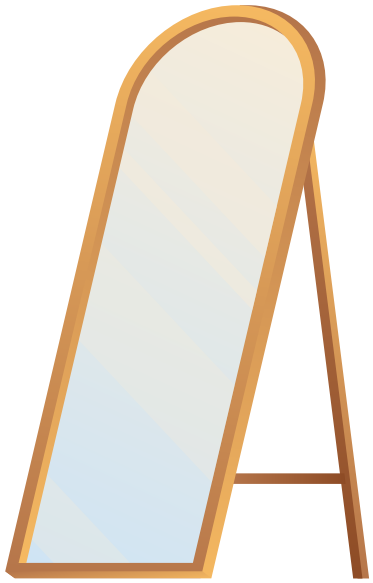
SUMMATION

13 REFLECT

MONDAY, 20 APRIL

REDUX

// **Looking Back** Bingo
// **Concluding Remarks**



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