

Program: Undergraduate Academic Studies –
Course title: RHETORIC
Teachers: Sima Avramović, Ph.D., Full Professor, sima@ius.bg.ac.rs, Vojislav Stanimirović, Ph.D., Associate Professor, woja@ius.bg.ac.rs; Miloš Stanković, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, milos.stankovic@ius.bg.ac.rs
Course status: optional
Number of ECTS: 2
Requirements:
<p>Aims of the course:</p> <p>The course deals with notion and importance of rhetoric, oratory and public speaking in modern communication (chiefly in law and politics), overviews historical development of the discipline (stressing experiences deriving from heritage of the most prominent speakers) and in particular tends to develop oral skills and improve communication capabilities of students. During the course students are expected to acquire elements of speaking ability developed since ancient Greek and Roman contributions (sophists, Plato, Aristotle, Demosthenes, Cicero, Quintilian), medieval and modern achievements of the discipline, including contemporary standards of public speaking.</p> <p>Particular attention will be focused to proper understanding of rhetoric, as a discipline that encompasses not only a skill of persuasive discourse, but comprehends a kind of adequate balance of three basic elements – <i>logos</i> (logical), <i>ethos</i> (ethical) and <i>pathos</i> (emotional). It will be stressed that rhetorical skill has to be used in order to persuade listeners in true statements of the speaker, rather than to be converted into demagoguery and call for non-ethical conclusions and actions (ethics of public speaking).</p> <p>Considerable interest will be devoted to three elements: speaker's features (appearance, image, personal credibility, voice and body language) audience analysis (before, during and after the speech) and the speech itself (selecting speech topic, topic research, organizing and outlining the speech, argumentation development, wording and delivering the speech). Different demands related to different types of speeches will be identified, considering variations both of judiciary, political and special occasion speeches, as well as of informative, persuasive and entertaining speeches.</p> <p>Along with theoretical aspects of different issues and demands, the course will be primarily oriented towards developing student's practical rhetorical skill. Student will be obliged to apply and perform different elements of it, to correct their faults and shortages, omit errors and introduce new elements in their rhetorical technique and public appearance.</p> <p>Students are expected to practice preparing, arranging and delivering of speech, proper preparation and use of outlines, developing of argumentation and critical way of thinking. Certain elements of the form of speech will be particularly pointed to, such as a need to eliminate clutter and rhetorical murmurs, necessity to employ pause (caesura), proper diction, rhetorical questions, persuasiveness, body language, visual aids, etc. The impromptu speech will be often trained. By the end of the course a thorough analysis and practice of court and political speech, as well as speeches in special occasions.</p>
<p>Course result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - getting knowledge, understanding and appreciation of verbal communication in the modern society, in particular in legal profession - accepting and combining traditional principles of classical rhetoric with modern public speaking techniques - developing critical thinking and argumentation skill - understanding of the public speaker's ethical responsibilities - acquiring awareness of simultaneous attention paid both to content and form of speech - understanding and taking care of three basic elements: speaker, audience, speech - developing persuasiveness and other speaker's qualities - skill in preparing, organizing and delivering of speech - elimination of faults and shortages in speech delivering - increasing self-confidence during public appearance - skill in constructive self-criticism and constructive criticism of others' speeches - skill in adapting to various types of speeches - skill for effective impromptu speech

Course content:

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. General notions, types and importance of rhetoric for the modern student. Relationship between rhetoric, oratory and public speaking. Speaking as communication. Need to combine classical elements of rhetoric with modern public speaking demands. Ethics of public speaking.
- 1.2. Introductory elements and demands through practicing: proper diction, pause (caesura) and elimination of rhetorical murmurs.

2. HISTORY OF RHETORIC APPLIED

- 2.1. Corax and Tysias – argument from probability, rhetorical questions.
- 2.2. Sophists – syllogism, enthymeme, abuse of rhetoric.
- 2.3. Plato – ethical component in rhetoric.
- 2.4. Demosthenes – relationship between talent and practicing, persuasiveness.
- 2.5. Quintilian – speaker’s education, self-confidence.
- 2.6. Cicero – attractive introduction and grabbing audience, repetition (Catilina case), cleverness, body language.
- 2.7. Middle ages – panegyric speech (up to our days), church speech (religious TV shows of today), rhetoric as an element of general education (septem artes liberales).

3. GENERAL RHETORIC

- 3.1. Audience - types of audience, audience analysis, attitudes, expectations, adapting to audience.
- 3.2. Speaker – voice quality, elements of vocal delivery, appearance, posture, facial expressions, movement, gestures (body language). Fear of speaking, persuasiveness, self-confidence.
- 3.3. Speech
 - 3.3.1. Selecting speech topic, researching the topic, supporting materials, argumentation.
 - 3.3.2. Organizing and dividing the speech. Importance, principles and types of speech outlining.
 - 3.3.3. Style - differences between written and oral communication. Kinds of styles. Length and articulation of sentences. Figures of speech. Effective language use (ABC - Accuracy, Brevity, Clarity).
 - 3.3.4. Speech delivering – vocal and physical delivery, murmurs, pause. Visual aids. Strategy and structure of persuasion.
 - 3.3.5. Impromptu speech.

4. SPECIAL RHETORIC

- 4.1. Judiciary (forensic) speech.
- 4.2. Political (deliberative) speech.
- 4.3. Speech in special occasions (epideictic speech).
- 4.4. Speech for media.

Literature:

Mandatory:

O. Stanojević - S. Avramović, *Ars rhetorica – veština besedništva* [*Ars rhetorica – Art of Speaking*], Belgrade 2004

Optional:

In Serbian:

Aristotel, *Retorika*, Beograd 1987

B. Nušić, *Retorika*, Beograd 1938

S. Petrović, *Retorika*, Niš 1975

J.S. Popović, *Prirodno pravo – Retorika*, Beograd 1995

Lj. Tadić, *Retorika – uvod u veštinu besedništva*, Beograd 1995

In Foreign Languages:

E.P.J. Corbett, *Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student*, New York – Oxford 1990
 L.A. Samovar – J. Mills, *Oral Communication*, Dubuque 1992
 J. Sprague – D. Stuart, *The Speaker's Handbook*, Fort Worth – Philadelphia 2000
 R.F. Verderber, *The Challenge of Effective Speaking*, Belmont, CA 1991

Number of lectures – active classes	Theoretical classes:	Practical classes :	
Instruction method: interactive lectures, guest lectures by actors, politicians and practicing lawyers, seminar papers (esseys), consultations, power-point and video presentations			
Grading system (maximum number of points 100)			
Pre-exam obligations	points	Final Exam	points
Activities during lectures		<i>100</i>	
Activities during practical classes			
Tests			
Seminar classes			