# Seminar: Forensic Oratory

## Prof. Gianluca C.J. Mainino

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with a wide range of basic notions of public speaking and classic rhetoric that can help them improve speaking skills necessary in the judicial as well as in other fields. It also aims to encourage students attending the seminar to practice speaking and eloquence through some practical meaningful exercises.

At the end of the course, students will be able to 1. know and recognise the network of rhetorical elements and strategies that can be used; 2. apply these rhetorical elements and strategies to the dynamics of interpersonal one-to-one and one-to-many relationships; 3. appreciate the relevance of using these techniques especially in the forensic field.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The seminar offers heterogenous content and exercises, aimed in general at acquiring confidence, ease, ability to speak effectively, but also aimed specifically at making the speaker’s core message, voice and body language more convincing. In particular, as far as forensic oratory is concerned, some passages of the work by Marcus Fabius Quintilianus will be presented and commented on. Quintilianus is the author of a famous manual in Roman times focused on the training of future lawyers and known with the title of *Institutio Oratoria*.

***READING LIST***

Lecture notes and, for in-depth study, the textbook: M.T. Cicerone (edited by P. Marsich), *L’arte di comunicare,* Milan, 2007 or later editions, Oscar Mondadori, 89 pp.

***TEACHING METHOD***

A total of 10 hours of lectures and practical classes offered to students directly in class or assigned from time to time in relation to the different topics studied.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed on their actual theoretical and practical knowledge and competences acquired during the seminar through a written test to be taken at the end of the last class. This test will include 10 multiple-choice questions on the course topics and listed on a paper distributed by the lecturer. Students will have a maximum time of 15 minutes to answer; thereafter the paper must be handed immediately to the lecturer in the classroom, otherwise the test will be invalid.

Each student will be required to regularly attend the workshop. In order to enrol as ‘attending student’, students must send an email to the email address that will be communicated in class during the seminar. This email will also be the only form of enrolment to the final written test.

Students who for any reason will not be able to attend the last class, at the end of which students will take the written test, will still be able to take it by appearing on the first exam date for the course ‘Institutions of Roman Law’ (by. Prof. L. Maganzani), without further enrolment except for the email mentioned above.

The final mark will be expressed as ‘positive’ or ‘negative’ and it will be assigned for a number of correct or incorrect answers equal to or above 6 out of 10.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Given the transversal nature of the topic, there are no prerequisites for attending the seminar. However, sincere interest and active participation in all classes are expected, which are the necessary qualities to effectively obtain the expected results.

*N.B: The seminar is open to students enrolled in all academic years.*

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.