NOTE: Brief descriptions for all courses offered by the School of Law are provided in a document titled “Course Descriptions” that is accessible through the “Course Catalog” link on the Curriculum Page of the law school website ([http://www.law.siu.edu/academics/curriculum/index.html](http://www.law.siu.edu/academics/curriculum/index.html)). The “extended” descriptions included here provide additional information beyond that contained in those brief descriptions.

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| 537 - Trial Advocacy [Skills Menu] [Distance Education] (Behan, C.) | The distance-education version of the trial advocacy course covers the same curriculum as the traditional live trial advocacy course, but uses different methods for instruction and assessment of students. All students who register for this course must do so with a partner, as approved by the course instructor. It is not necessary for partners to be in the same geographic location, but it is necessary for them to be available to each other via Google Hangout to participate in advocacy exercises.  
  **Technology Needs.** Everyone participating in this course needs to have a computer with a webcam, access to high-speed internet, a Google email and Hangout account, and a basic understanding of how to create and record video sessions on Google Hangout and Youtube. Students will also need an account with a program called Acclaim. Acclaim is a subscription program that requires a modest monthly fee for the duration of the course. The program lets the instructor make time-stamped comments on video recorded advocacy performances. Sign-up information for Acclaim will be provided in the course syllabus after registration. Those not conversant with technology or who have difficulty learning to use it shouldn’t take this course via distance education.  
  **Lectures and Instructional Materials.** The course uses asynchronous delivery of lectures and other instructional materials. Each week, students will be able to view those materials on their own schedule, within a timeframe established in the syllabus. For example, students might be given a 3-day window in which to watch a podcast on opening statements. The lectures and instructional materials will be posted on the course homepage.  
  **Advocacy Exercises.** Every week, students will be assigned an advocacy exercise. Examples include opening statements, closing arguments, direct examination of witnesses, cross-examination of witnesses, and so forth. Some of these require a partner, whereas others do not. Students will perform and record the assigned advocacy exercise, then upload it to Acclaim. The instructor will watch the recorded performances on Acclaim, make comments on Acclaim, and provide other feedback (email comments, grades, etc.). In addition to performing exercises, students also will assess and comment on the video-recorded work of other students using the Acclaim website. When an exercise requires a partner, they will be expected to create time in their schedules to perform and upload the exercise during the assigned timeframe. The instructor will not accept the inability to contact a partner as an excuse. This is why students must sign up with a partner, having already committed to each other to be available when needed.  
  **Final Trial.** The final jury trials are live and will take place at the law school on July 31 and August 1. More information will be provided in the course syllabus. Students and their partners will try one side of the case against another partnership. Other members of the class will serve as witnesses. |