

POLITICAL SCIENCE 262 TRIAL PROCEDURE

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Office Hours:
TuTh 2:00-5:00
or by appointment

PURPOSES OF THE COURSE

The course has at least six distinct purposes. It is designed to provide: (1) knowledge of trial procedure, so that the student will come to better understand the functioning of the United States judicial process; (2) opportunities to construct and test logical arguments; (3) opportunities to think on one's feet; (4) opportunities to develop public speaking techniques; (5) a basis upon which the instructor can choose the college's intercollegiate mock trial team; (6) an opportunity to compete for a position on that team; and (7) a chance to begin constructing the team's cases in preparation for competition.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings
Class Attendance and Critiques of Fellow Students
Out-of-Class Practice and Preparation
In-Class Public Speaking
In-Class Performances in Mock Trial Roles
Written Examinations

COURSE TEXTS

Thomas A. Mauet, Fundamentals of Trial Technique (2007)
Marcus Pohlmann, Class Notes (2007)
American Mock Trial Association, Rules and Case (downloads)
www.collegemocktrial.org [passwords in handout]

optional:

Glen Weissenberger, Federal Evidence: Courtroom Manual

GRADES

Letter grades will be based on the following criteria:

Written examinations (80%)

Six Class Examinations (10% each)

Final Exam (20%)

Performance (20%):

Attendance (in class and at out-of-class team practices)

Critiques of fellow student's public speeches and mock trials

Preparation and effort in one's own public speech and trial roles

Demonstrated understanding of trial procedure exhibited in both
mock trial performances and critiques of others' performances

Cooperation and overall effort on in-class mock trial teams

Full class attendance, including remaining until the end of all classes

n.b.: Course will meet from 7:00 until 10:00 (or later) each Monday and Wednesday, but it will be concluded by the middle of October. Arrange your schedule so that you can attend the full class every time. Missing classes or leaving early will be penalized.

Exam Rule: Looking at previous years' exams is not allowed and will be viewed as a serious violation of the Honor Code. When you pledge your exams, you will be pledging in part that you have not seen any such materials.

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Introduction

w/ public speaking discussion

August 22

Read: Lecture Notes, pp. 1-2

I. Trial Procedure

A. Direct Examination

w/ speeches, **quiz #1**

August 27

Read: Mauet, chaps. 5, 6

Lecture Notes, pp. 3-8

B. Cross-Examination

w/ speeches, **quiz #2**

August 29

Read: Mauet, chap. 7

Lecture Notes, pp. 14-19

C. Witnesses

w/ speeches, **quiz #3**

September 5

Read: Mauet, chap. 8

Lecture Notes, pp. 9-13

D. Objections/Rules of Evidence
w/ speeches, **quiz #4***

*Understand rules, procedures & strategies,
but no need to memorize rule numbers -- yet.

E. Openings and Closings
w/ speeches, **quiz #5**

F. Attorneys
w/ speeches, **quiz #6**

September 10
Read: Mauet, chap. 10
Lecture Notes, pp. 20-27
Rules of Evidence +
Rulebook: Chs. 8, 9 and
Rules 4.38 - 4.41

September 12
Read: Mauet, chaps. 4, 9
Lecture Notes, pp. 28-33

September 17
Read: Mauet, chaps. 2, 11
Lecture Notes, pp. 34-39

II. Mock Trials

PS 307

PS 309

September 19 1 (P) vs. 2 (D)

3 (P) vs. 4 (D)

September 24 3 (P) vs. 5 (D)

4 (P) vs. 2 (D)

September 26 5 (P) vs. 4 (D)

1 (P) vs. 3 (D)

October 1 4 (P) vs. 1 (D)

2 (P) vs. 5 (D)

October 3 2 (P) vs. 3 (D)

5 (P) vs. 1 (D)

October 8 **FINAL EXAM**, Awards Ceremony, Witness Try Outs
(last meeting of PS 304)

INTERDEPARTMENTAL 263: MOCK TRIAL

October 7 Intercollegiate Teams announced by e-mail

October 8 Intercollegiate Teams meet

October 10 Intercollegiate Teams practice

FALL BREAK

October 17	Intercollegiate Teams practice
October 19	Teams 872 and 873 leave for Cornell Invitational
October 22	Intercollegiate Teams practice
October 24	Intercollegiate Teams practice
October 26	Team 874 leaves for ECU Invitational
October 29	Intercollegiate Teams practice
October 31	Intercollegiate Teams practice
November 2	Team 872 leaves for D.C. Invitational, Team 873 for Iowa
November 5	Intercollegiate Teams practice
November 7	Intercollegiate Teams practice
November 8	Teams 874 leaves for MTSU Invitational
November 12	Intercollegiate Teams practice
November 14	Intercollegiate Teams practice
November 19	Intercollegiate Teams practice
THANKSGIVING BREAK	
November 26	Intercollegiate Teams practice
November 28	Intercollegiate Teams practice
November 30	Team 872 leaves for Macalester Invitational, 873 for Joliet
December 3	Intercollegiate Teams practice (optional)
December 5	Intercollegiate Teams practice (optional)
January 3-6 WINTER RETREAT	
January 9	Regional Team Practices
January 16	Regional Team Practices

January 18 **Team 872 leaves for L.A. Invitational (pending)**

January 23 Regional Team Practices

January 25 **Teams 873 & 874 leave for Atlanta Invitational
Team 872 leaves for Loras Invitational (pending)**

January 30 Regional Team Practices

February 6 Regional Team Practices

February 13 Regional Team Practices

REGIONAL QUALIFIER February dates and location tba
Team 874 will be finished at the conclusion of their Regional Tournament
-- except for working at the Memphis Silver National (March 14-16)

February 20 Regional Team Practices

February 27 Regional Team Practices

SPRING BREAK

March 12 National Team Practices

MEMPHIS SILVER NATIONAL “tbd” March 14-16 (You’ll be competing or working.)

March 19 National Team Practices

March 26 National Team Practices

April 2 National Team Practices

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS in ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA “tbd” April 3-7
Team(s) will leave Thursday afternoon, April 3rd and return Monday morning, April 7th

INTERDEPARTMENTAL 263 GRADING POLICY. An "A" grade will be assigned if a maximum effort is apparent throughout the term, confirmed by your team captain. Grades will be lowered proportionately for anything less. In addition, an "F" will be given to anyone who quits before the end of the National finals in St. Paul. Unless previously agreed to, you are required to be available to compete in whatever team configuration the coaches determine. You must be available for all the above tournaments, as well as for a regional tournament any of the weekends in February.