

POLITICAL SCIENCE 262 TRIAL PROCEDURE

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Office Hours:
TuTh 12:30-2:00 Th 3:30-5:00
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 (2005)
Marcus Pohlmann, Class Notes (2006)
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%)

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

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 23
Read: Lecture Notes, pp. 1-2

I. Trial Procedure

A. Direct Examination
w/ speeches, **quiz**

August 28
Read: Mauet, chaps. 5, 6
Lecture Notes, pp. 3-8

B. Witnesses and Cross-Examination
w/ speeches, **quiz**

August 30
Read: Mauet, chap. 7, 8
Lecture Notes, pp. 9-19

C. Objections/Rules of Evidence
w/ speeches, **quiz***

September 6
Read: Mauet, chap. 10
Lecture Notes, pp. 20-27
Rules of Evidence +

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

Rulebook: Chs. 8,9 and
Rules 4.38 - 4.41

D. Openings and Closings
w/ speeches, **quiz**

September 11
Read: Mauet, chaps. 4, 9
Lecture Notes, pp. 28-33

E. Attorneys
w/ speeches, **quiz**

September 13
Read: Mauet, chaps. 11, 12
Lecture Notes, pp. 34-38

II. Mock Trials

September 18	In-Class Trials: Round One
September 20	In-Class Trials: Round Two
September 25	In-Class Trials: Round Three
September 27	In-Class Trials: Round Four
October 2	In-Class Trials: Round Five
October 4	In-Class Trials: Round Six
October 9	In-Class Trials: Round Seven

October 11	FINAL EXAM , Awards Ceremony, Witness Try Outs (last meeting of PS 304)
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INTERDEPARTMENTAL 263: MOCK TRIAL

October 12	Intercollegiate Teams announced
October 13	Intercollegiate Teams contacted by captains
FALL BREAK	
October 18	Intercollegiate Teams practice
October 23	Intercollegiate Teams practice

October 25 Intercollegiate Teams practice

October 27 Teams 873 and 874 leave for ECU Invitational

October 30 Intercollegiate Teams practice

November 1 Intercollegiate Teams practice

November 3 Team 872 leaves for D.C. Invitational

November 6 Intercollegiate Teams practice

November 8 Intercollegiate Teams practice

November 10 Teams 873 and 874 leave for MTSU

November 13 Intercollegiate Teams practice

November 15 Intercollegiate Teams practice

November 17-19 Blues City Challenge (872, 873, w/ 874 as the bye team)

THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 27 Intercollegiate Teams practice

November 29 Intercollegiate Teams practice

December 1 Team 872 leaves for N.Y. Invitational

January 5-7 WINTER RETREAT

January 10 Regional Team Practices

January 12 Team 872 leaves for L.A. Invitational

January 17 Regional Team Practices

January 19 Teams 873 & 874 leave for Atlanta Invitational (tent.)

January 24 Regional Team Practices

January 31 Regional Team Practices

February 7 Regional Team Practices

February 14 Regional Team Practices

REGIONAL QUALIFIER February dates and location tba
Team 874 will be finished at the conclusion of their Regional Tournament

February 21 Regional Team Practices

February 28 National Team Practices

March 7 National Team Practices

SPRING BREAK

CHICAGO NATIONAL “tbd” leaves Thurs., Mar. 15th and return Mon., the 19th
(or could be MINNEAPOLIS NATIONAL – tba)

March 21 National Team Practices

March 28 National Team Practices

April 4 National Team Practices

April 11 National Team Practices

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS April 12-16 Teams will leave Thursday
afternoon, April 12th and return Monday morning, April 16th.

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. Pete. 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. Also, take careful note that the Chicago weekend is the back end of your Spring Break.