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
  Read: Lecture Notes, pp. 1-2

I. Trial Procedure

A. Direct Examination w/ speeches, quiz
  Read: Mauet, chaps. 5, 6
  Lecture Notes, pp. 3-8

B. Witnesses and Cross-Examination w/ speeches, quiz
  Read: Mauet, chap. 7, 8
  Lecture Notes, pp. 9-19

C. Objections/Rules of Evidence w/ speeches, quiz*
  Read: Mauet, chap. 10
  Lecture Notes, pp. 20-27
  Rules of Evidence +
  Rulebook: Chs. 8,9 and Rules 4.38 - 4.41

*Understand rules, procedures & strategies, but no need to memorize rule numbers -- yet.
D. Openings and Closings September 11
   w/ speeches, quiz
   Read: Mauet, chaps. 4, 9
   Lecture Notes, pp. 28-33

E. Attorneys September 13
   w/ speeches, quiz
   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)

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 EKU 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  Regiona1 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.

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**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.