Mock Trial
TuTh 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.
Political Science 104

Mock Trial

Description: A study of the trial process in the United States, including a survey of civil procedure, rules of evidence, and legal analysis and reasoning.

Instructors: Rick Young  Jason A. Cox
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(Office hours by appointment)  (Office hours by appointment)

Time & Location: Tuesday and Thursday
7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
Political Science House – Mock Trial Courtroom

Grade Scale: Three (3) written exams, each of which accounts for ten percent (10%) of the final grade; attendance accounts for ten percent (10%) of final grade and participation accounts for sixty percent (60%) of final grade.

Texts: Thomas A. Mauet, “Trial Techniques” (Aspen Publishers) (8th Ed. or later);

Brian K. Johnson and Marsha Hunter, “The Articulate Advocate” (Crown King Books) (2009); and

Current Case Problem, AMERICAN MOCK TRIAL ASSOCIATION.


Expectations: Students are required to participate in the American Mock Trial Association mock trial tournament, as well as related invitational tournaments and scrimmages (both local and away). Students are
required to abide by all rules related thereto at both tournaments and in the classroom.

Students are required to dress in appropriate courtroom attire for tournaments and scrimmages and to conduct themselves as representatives of the University of St. Thomas community during competitions (including travel to and from competitions).

Students are required to participate in additional sessions/team meetings that will occur on weekends and during holiday breaks.

**Objectives:**

Students will learn how to analyze statutes and case law and gain an understanding of the United States legal system works both procedurally and substantively. Students will learn the basics of legal reasoning and argument, and learn how to be an effective oral advocate.

**Academics:**

Examinations will be comprised of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Extra credit may be given from time to time, and may be comprised of extra points awarded to examinations, or additional excused absences.

All of the work completed in this course is expected to be the student’s own. **Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism** (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper attribution) **will be tolerated.** Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to university policy and reported to the University’s Academic Misconduct Committee.

As stated in the Academic Misconduct Code for the University of St. Thomas, academic misconduct includes: (a) cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; (b) assisting others in any such act; or (c) attempting to engage in such acts.

Plagiarism is using the work of another person and claiming it as your own. The most common types of plagiarism include:
• Using a paper or portion of a paper prepared by someone else;
• Quoting someone else’s language or words without proper quotation or citation; and
• Paraphrasing someone else’s ideas, framework, or insights without giving credit to the original author in a citation.

**Academic misconduct in any form in unacceptable and suspected violations will be pursued aggressively.**

**Disabilities:** Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact the instructors after class or during office hours. Additionally, students will need to contact Counselling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953. If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact the instructors to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Counselling and Disability Services Office.