

PSC-284 Mock Trial: Civil Course – Winter Quarter 2019

Levan 403

Monday 6pm-10pm, Wednesday 6pm-8pm & Sunday 9am-3pm

Instructor: Eric Wright

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Office Hours M 6pm-10pm, Wednesday 6pm-8pm & by appointment

General Course Description

Mock Trial is a co-curricular activity involving intercollegiate competitive simulation of court cases. The course is taught by attorneys and gives students a chance to learn first-hand about the work of trial attorneys, understand the judicial system, develop critical thinking skills, enhance communication skills and participate in simulated trial experiences. Students will learn and practice elements of trial advocacy, including opening statements, direct and cross-examination of witnesses, objections, use of exhibits and demonstratives and closing arguments. *Students not currently part of the Mock Trial Team at DePaul University will be expected to become a member of the team.*

The American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) sponsors the competitive mock trial events cumulating with regional and national post season tournaments. Teams from undergraduate institutions present a mock case before judging panels drawn from the local bench and bar with students assuming the roles of attorneys and witnesses.

Readings

Readings for this case can be obtained at (<http://www.collegemocktrial.org>). Specifically, students will need to obtain a copy of:

1. AMTA 2018-2019 Case Problem: Midlands Television Studios, Inc. v Danny Kosack
2. Midlands Rules of Evidence
3. AMTA Rulebook, Revised August 25, 2018

Criteria for Grading

Student grades for the course will be based on attendance (50%) and participation (50%). Students must keep a written law journal to be turned in at the end of the quarter. This journal will consist of 2 witness summaries (Ts), an opening statement, direct examination, cross examination and closing argument. Additionally, a reflective paper outlining experiences must be turned in with the law journal.

Learning Objective

As this is an experiential learning course, you must experience it to learn. You have committed to spending Monday nights from 6pm-10pm, Wednesday nights 6-8pm & Sundays 9am-3pm. There are also required weekend scrimmages and competitions at DePaul and away at other universities.

Students develop critical thinking skills and persuasive oral communication skills through the process of preparation and presentation of simulated court litigation including case analysis, preparation of oral and

written direct and cross examinations, open statements and closing arguments. Students will learn about the substantive issues involved in the AMTA provided civil case. Students will also develop teamwork skills. Student participation in Mock Trial involves working with other students who collectively form a team for simulated trial. Each student's effort is combined into a team product. Finally, students will learn about the ethics of professionalism in the legal profession.

Academic Integrity

Work done for this course must adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy, which you can review in the Student Handbook or by visiting Academic Integrity at DePaul University (<http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu>).

Students who feel they may need accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs.

Syllabus

Wednesday 1/2 6-10 pm Off campus at Sharon's house

Sunday 1/6 9-3 pm

Monday 1/7 6-10 pm

Wednesday 1/9 6-10 pm

Sunday 1/13 9-3pm

Monday 1/14 6-10 pm

Wednesday 1/16 6-8 pm

Friday 1/18 Leave for Pella, Iowa

Saturday – Sunday 1/19-1/20 Invitational at Central College, Pella, Iowa

Monday 1/21 6-10 pm Off Campus at Sharon's house

Wednesday 1/23 6-8 pm

Thursday 1/24 Leave for Dubuque, Iowa

Friday – Saturday 1/25-1/26 Invitational at Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa

Monday 1/28 6-10 pm

Sunday 2/3 9-3 pm

Monday 2/4 6-10 pm

Wednesday 2/6 6-8 pm

Friday-Sat-Sun 2/8-2/10 Regional, DuPage County Courthouse, Wheaton, Illinois

Monday 2/11 6-10 pm

Monday 2/18 6-10 pm

Monday 2/25 6-10 pm

Saturday 3/2 or Sunday 3/3 TBD

Monday 3/4 6-10 pm

Wednesday 3/6 6-8 pm TBD

Friday -Sunday 3/8-3/10 ORCS Geneva, Kane County Courthouse, Geneva, Illinois (or observe a round if not competing)

Monday 3/11 6-10 pm

Monday 3/18 6-10 pm Last Class or Spring trial

Depending on whether we advance out of Region, there may be a scrimmage on March 2-3 weekend TBD.

If we advance from ORCS, there may be additional weekend practice/scrimmages between ORCS and Nationals TBD. The National Championship Tournament is scheduled for April 4-7, 2019 | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.