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GSD/POL 466A/B – Mock Trial
Fall 2015 and Spring 2016

Fall: Mondays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (beginning August 31)
Wednesdays, 3:45-5:45 p.m.

Spring: TBA

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Case and Rules from the American Mock Trial Association (available on AMTA website and in class)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Preparation for American Mock Trial Association competitions during the 2014-2015 academic year. Development of a case for presentation including opening arguments, introduction of testimonial, physical, and demonstrative evidence, direct and cross examination of witnesses, closing arguments, etc. Students will also participate in competitions on and off campus.

Prerequisites: Instructor approval and GPA 2.5 or above (exceptions to GPA requirement in special circumstances subject to instructor approval).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will acquire knowledge about the foundations, functions, terminology, sources of law and court structure and procedure.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of theory and content of law by applying these concepts to mock litigation.
- Students will evaluate information obtained by reading/studying the AMTA case(s) presented each year in order to compose their own arguments for presentation during trials.
- Witnesses will demonstrate the ability to integrate their knowledge of the case with that of opposing teams to generate answers to questions posed by the opposition.
- Attorneys will utilize critical thinking skills by anticipating answers to prewritten questions from opposing witnesses and reframe their arguments based upon those answers.

Information for Students with Disabilities:

A student with a “disability” may be an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as learning, seeing, or hearing. Additionally, pregnancy accompanied by related medical conditions that causes a similar substantial limitation may also be considered a disability under the ADA.

If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please obtain your accommodation letters from OSID and present them to the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you believe you need accommodation and are not registered with OSID, please contact the office in the Whitlock Building Room 361 by email at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.

If you have mobility issues, please notify an instructor with the Mock Trial Program well before the first tournament so that we can obtain information on accessibility prior to traveling and make any necessary arrangements with hotels, tournament hosts, etc.

GRADING PROCEDURES

1. Class Attendance and Preparation

Regular, consistent class attendance is mandatory and all students must arrive in class (ON TIME) familiar with assigned materials and prepared to rehearse. Students who neglect to attend class and perform necessary preparation demonstrate contempt for their colleagues, their instructors, and themselves. This will not be tolerated. Only those absences deemed reasonable and unavoidable by the instructors will be excused.

The instructors reserve the right to penalize excessive, consistent tardiness by marking late arrivals as absent. Students missing more than 20% of the classes over the two semesters will receive an automatic "F" in the course. Students who must miss class are responsible for obtaining information about all announcements, assignments, and activities covered in the missed class. The instructors' evaluation of preparation and in-class performance will constitute forty percent (40%) of the course grade. **"Class" includes all regular meetings, mandatory scrimmages, small group meetings, practice sessions, and travel to and from competitions.** Each team will generally have at least one additional REQUIRED meeting per week and absences from those meetings will count as missed classes. Unexcused absences from scrimmages will also count as missed classes.

2. Tournament Performance

The instructors' evaluation of student performance in rounds at tournaments, combined with the information provided by the tournament judges on the official ballots, will constitute thirty percent (30%) of the grade. Students who are not designated to attend any tournament will be responsible for alternative assignments to be determined by the instructors.

Attending tournaments to which you are assigned is a course requirement – a grade of "F" will be entered for any student who fails to meet this requirement, unless excused by the instructors. Please notify your other instructors and make appropriate arrangements to complete any work missed. The Mock Trial instructors will provide an explanatory letter prior to the tournament and an official University excuse after returning from the competition. Students should request letters as needed.

3. Teamwork and Ethics

Because Mock Trial is a group activity, the instructors will evaluate students' ability to work with others in a professional and responsible manner. Students must comply with the ethical standards established for the Mock Trial team by the American Mock Trial Association, Eastern Kentucky University, and by the instructors. Actions classified as ethical violations include, but are not limited to:

- placing one's individual interests above those of the team;
- failing to treat colleagues with due respect;
- lying to colleagues or instructors;
- engaging in dishonesty in any matter related to Mock Trial;
- violating the rules outlined in the AMTA fact situation and rules, including all rules related to courtesy;
- engaging in irresponsible behavior that puts others at risk; and
- illegal conduct of any sort during class time (travel to and from tournaments, as well as all time spent in the tournament city on tournament weekend, would count as "class time")

The instructors' evaluation of the students' sense of responsibility and integrity in matters related to Mock Trial competition, combined with his/her contribution to the competence, cohesiveness and general well-being of the team, will constitute thirty percent (30%) of the course grade.

4. Alternative Syllabus

Should a student be unable to work productively as a member of a team, that student may be shifted to the alternative Mock Trial syllabus and be required to complete an independent research project in lieu of participation on a team. Such a shift will be made at the discretion of the instructors based upon the collective interest of the team and not for the convenience of the student. The transfer to the alternative syllabus will carry no academic penalty and the student's grade will be based solely upon the merits of the research project.

The alternative syllabus is designed to prevent interpersonal conflicts from undermining the functioning of the team. The judgments and opinions of team members will not be determinative. The alternative syllabus will not be used in the case of a violation under Part A, Section 3, Part B, Section 6 or Part B, Section 7. The sanctions for violations of these policies are described in the relevant sections of the syllabus.

5. Composition of Regional, Opening Round Championship, and Championship Teams

At various points during the term, the instructors will reconfigure the existing teams, as necessary, to create the teams that will compete at subsequent tournaments. Those students who are not assigned to additional tournaments will receive a final grade at the end of the Fall semester and will not re-enroll in Mock Trial for the Spring semester.

Because only a limited number of students can compete in mock trial tournaments, it may be necessary to reduce the number of participants at the conclusion of the Fall semester. The denial of a "bid" to return for the Spring semester does not constitute an academic penalty and will depend upon factors such as team chemistry, the particular roles available in a given season, and the relative merits, talents, and performances of participants. In addition, any student whose GPA drops below a 2.0, resulting in Academic Probation, or whose academic record otherwise indicates that Mock Trial participation may be jeopardizing the student's overall academic performance may be assigned a grade for the Fall semester and may not be permitted to enroll for the Spring semester. The instructors expect all students to maintain good academic standing at all times.

Students who do not receive a "bid" for Spring may be permitted to participate in Mock Trial in the subsequent year.

Although the instructors may reduce the number of students at the end of the Fall semester without imposing academic penalty, **students who enroll in Mock Trial are required to make a two-semester commitment.** Students will normally receive a grade of "I" at the end of the Fall Semester, with a final grade to be awarded at the end of the Spring semester.

6. Grading Scale

A	=	at least 90% of total points possible
B	=	at least 80% of total points possible
C	=	at least 70% of total points possible
D	=	at least 60% of total points possible
F	=	fewer than 60% of total points possible

ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

1. Information Sessions and Auditions

Students are selected to participate in EKV Mock Trial by an audition process. Signup sheets for auditions will be available at the information/orientation sessions held on **Tuesday, August 25**, and **Wednesday, August 26**, at **5 p.m.** in the **Noel Studio Discovery Classroom** (2nd floor of Noel). Auditions will be held on **Thursday, August 27**, from **3:30-6:30 p.m.** and **Friday, August 28**, from **9-11 a.m.** in the **Noel Studio Conference Room** (2nd floor of Noel).

Auditioning students will be asked to prepare a short presentation (approximately 2 minutes) that demonstrates their public speaking and performance skills. The presentation may be a speech, monologue, or any other format (within reason) selected by the student. The presentation will be followed by a short interview with the coaches. Students will be notified via email whether they have been selected on Friday, August 28, before 5 p.m. Students who are selected for the program will be given information in that email on how to enroll for the Mock Trial class.

Students who are not selected for the team are permitted to audition again whenever the next auditions are held. Depending on the program's needs, a small number of students may be permitted to join for the spring semester; if so, an information session and auditions will be announced toward the end of the fall semester.

2. Costs

EKV University Programs provides a Mock Trial budget. However, students should be prepared to cover some costs. The exact amount covered by the budget will depend on the location of the tournaments, hotel and transportation costs, receipt of bid(s) for nationals, and factors unforeseen. Students should expect to pay for their own meals.

3. Attire

Tournament rules require that most competitors wear business attire. This means suits for attorneys and attire appropriate to the character, status, and position of each witness. Please be prepared to dress appropriately during a two- or three-day tournament. Dressing "appropriately" may also require that students conform to typical courtroom standards in their personal grooming (hairstyle, hair color, body jewelry, etc.).

4. Extra class meetings; additional preparation

During the weeks immediately prior to competition, we may have extra class meetings. Students should reserve time for additional rehearsals. Each team will have a regular meeting at least once per week. The instructors will select a class day to work intensively with each team and will schedule the team meetings on the alternative class day. All students are expected to be present for all class

periods to which their team has been assigned on Mondays and Wednesdays. We may also schedule the occasional weekend practice session. As in any other class, students should do preparatory work and additional rehearsal outside of meeting times.

5. **Inadequate preparation**

Inadequate preparation will trigger a series of dull, brutally difficult quizzes. Also note that the instructors prefer to avoid quizzes and will be exceedingly irritated if forced to implement them.

6. **Assignment of roles**

Assignment of students to teams and to specific roles and duties is at the discretion of the instructors. **The instructors will make all final decisions as to which students play which roles in competition and as to team and travel assignments.** The instructors may also reassign teams and roles as needed. In fact, you should anticipate that some shifting of roles and changes in team composition will be necessary after evaluating tournament performance. Reassignments are often based upon factors other than the student's competence and should not be taken personally.

7. **Academic Integrity**

Students are advised that EKU's Academic Integrity Policy will be strictly enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy is available at <http://www.academicintegrity.eku.edu/>.

8. **Behavior while attending tournaments**

When attending tournaments, you represent Eastern Kentucky University. You should recognize that we wish to leave a favorable impression upon students and faculty from other institutions. Any behavior that reflects poorly upon EKU (including but not limited to temper tantrums at tournaments, engaging in illegal behavior or “partying,” and generally acting like a bunch of heathens) will be penalized and sanctions under the terms outlined in Part A, Section 3 and Part B, Section 7.

9. **Policy regarding alcohol and other drugs; illegal activity**

The consumption, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages, banned substances, or illegally obtained substances, or the abuse of prescription or non-prescription medications by members of the Mock Trial team – including captains, alternates, timekeepers, graduate assistants, and coaches – is prohibited during all mock-trial-related activities. The prohibition extends to all participants, regardless of age and whether or not the consumption of alcoholic beverages is otherwise legal for the individual in question. The policy applies to mandatory practices on- or off-campus, to all meetings (voluntary or mandatory) held on the EKU campus, scrimmages, and all competitions. For the purposes of this policy, “competition” includes travel to and from the tournament city (i.e., from the moment students arrive at the van to leave until the moment they depart the van upon their return). The policy will apply from departure until participants return to their residences. The provisions in this policy shall also apply to illegal behavior of any kind.

Any participant who violates this policy will be subject to one or more of the following sanctions:

- Immediate suspension from the team, pending referral to Student Rights and Responsibilities. Such suspension will carry no academic penalty;
- Referral to Student Rights and Responsibilities for hearing, adjudication, and sanctions in accordance with University Policy;
- Suspension from competitive activity, for a time period appropriate to the nature and severity of the offense;
- An academic penalty of up to three letter grades (for both Fall and Spring semesters) under the

- ethics clause of the syllabus, depending upon the nature and severity of the offense;
- Permanent exclusion from participation in mock trial, depending upon the nature and severity of the offense;
- For graduate assistants and coaches: dismissal from position, referral to the Department Chair and/or Dean.

All participants have an affirmative obligation to report violations of the drug, alcohol, and illegal activity policy. Those who have knowledge of violations and fail to report said violations to one of the Mock Trial instructors (listed at the top of page one of the syllabus) will be subject to the same sanctions as the original offenders, including the academic penalty. **Reporting violations to a team captain or another student is insufficient to fulfill the obligation to report under this syllabus.**

EVENT SCHEDULE

Fall Semester:

Fri., Sep. 11 – Sat., Sep. 13	<i>EKU Mock Trial Retreat</i> Maywoods, Crab Orchard, KY
Fri., Oct. 16 – Mon., Oct. 19	<i>Arch Invitational</i> Washington University, St. Louis, MO
Fri., Oct. 30 – Sun., Nov. 1	<i>Scarlet & Gray Invitational Tournament</i> The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Fri., Nov. 13 – Sun., Nov. 15	<i>Illinois State University Mock Trial Invitational</i> Illinois State University, Normal/Bloomington, IL
Fri., Nov. 20 – Mon., Nov. 23	<i>Great Lakes Mock Trial Invitational</i> Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

Spring Semester:

Fri., Jan. 15 – Mon. Jan. 18	<i>The Great Chicago Fire Invitational</i> University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (students are required to return to EKU no later than Wednesday, January 13, to prepare for tournament)
Fri., Jan. 23 – Sun., Jan. 25	<i>Ramblin' Wreck Tournament</i> Georgia Tech University, Atlanta, GA
February – weekend TBD	<i>AMTA Regional Tournament</i> Location TBD
March – likely either Mar. 11-13 or 18-20	<i>AMTA Opening Round Championship</i> (location TBD) (pending qualification)
Thurs., Apr. 15 – Mon., Apr. 19	<i>AMTA National Championship Tournament</i> Greenville, SC (pending qualification)

Note: *The tournament schedule above is subject to change. Also see item #5 (“Assignment of roles”) under “Additional Policies and Procedures” regarding assignment of students to teams and specific tournaments.*