

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2240, Sec 0, CRN 40633  
Justice and the American Trial Process  
Fall 2014

COURSE SYLLABUS  
Professor J. Michael Giglio

Tuesdays 5:30 - 8:00  
Brock 406  
3 Credit Hours

Contact Info:

[gigliolaw@catt.com](mailto:gigliolaw@catt.com) (This is the best and easiest way to contact me.)  
(706) 965-8300 Office (Jessi is my secretary)  
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course will focus on preparing students to experience first hand a trial in the American judicial system. Through actual experience and theoretical discussion, students will gain an appreciation for and an understanding of trial advocacy. Students will apply the knowledge gained in the classroom to their roles in an actual courtroom mock trial. Students will be responsible for learning evidentiary rules governing the flow of information from advocate to jury. Students will prepare and examine witnesses, make objections to evidentiary proffers and argue to the jury. Students will also examine the historical reasons for our set of rules and laws governing the trial process.

Course Texts and Materials

Would You Convict? Seventeen Cases that Challenged the Law  
Robinson, Paul H.  
New York University Press, 1999.

Mock Trials: Preparing, Presenting, and Winning Your Case  
Lubet, Steven and Trumbull-Harris, Jill  
National Institute of Trial Advocacy, 2001.

Mock Trial Case  
(To be published)  
National Institute of Trial Advocacy, 2014.

## Attendance

Due to the nature and brevity of this course, attendance at each and every session is an absolute necessity. After one absence, all absences must be approved in advance to be excused. Since we only meet once a week, it would be virtually impossible to pass the course with more than one absence.

## Grading

Class preparation and participation	50%
Mid-Term paper	20%
Mock Trial performance	30%

The mid-term paper is 5-10 pages on a topic picked and approved from the Would You Convict? book. It is to be double spaced in a 12 pt. font and with one inch margins from each edge.

## Communication

The University will use your UTC e-mail address for all communications (and therefore, so will I!) Please check your UTC e-mail on a regular basis. If you have problems with the system, contact the Help Desk at 425-4000.

## Disability Statement

If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) and think that you might need special assistance or a special accommodation in this class or any other class, call the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 425-4006 or come by the office, 102 Frist Hall <http://www.utc.edu/Administration/DisabilityResourceCenter/>.

If you find that personal problems, career indecision, study and time management difficulties, etc. are adversely affecting your successful progress at UTC, please contact the Counseling and Career Planning Center at 425-4438 or <http://www.utc.edu/Administration/CounselingAndCareerPlanning/>.

## Political Science 224

### Class Sessions

Be prepared to discuss these assignments in class.

Be prepared to practice these trial components in class.

August 19	Introduction
August 26	Chapters 1,2,3 MT Intro to Case, talk about team structure
September 2	Chapters 4,5 MT Divide into teams, Practice laying foundations, direct exams
September 9	Chapter 6,7 MT Practice Cross, impeaching witnesses
September 16	Chapter 8,9 MT Practice Expert Testimony
September 23	Chapter 10 MT Practice Objections/Responses
September 30	Chapter 11 MT Practice Opening Statements
October 7	Chapter 12 MT Practice Closing Statements
October 14	Practice as needed Mid-term papers due.
October 21	Fall Break (no class for those of you not used to fall breaks!)
October 28	Practice as needed
November 4	Final Practice A
November 11	Final Practice B
November 18	Mock Trial A
November 25	Mock Trial B