

# POL 499 Senior Seminar: Moot Court Winter Term II

Dr. Mantzopoulos  
Office: 243 Briggs  
Phone: 993-1056  
Office Hours: 9:00-9:50 Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
Friday 1:00-2:00  
and by appointment

## **Course Description:**

Designed to provide the student with an opportunity to integrate a specific problem with the total field of Political Science. The course requires intensive research and/or reading of a particular theme or topic. Content of the course varies from semester to semester.

This semester's topic is legal issues. The course will help better define the legal system and legal issues by conducting two moot court simulations. Legal research will be required, both to the topics of the cases and the role of the student in the simulation.

## **Text:**

No textbook is required. Extensive library research will be required. Handouts will be distributed periodically. Access to a law/legal dictionary is advisable.

## **Simulation:**

Each student will participate in a simulated moot-court session. The whole class will participate in a moot-court representing an issue before the U.S. Supreme Court. Each student will have a role as a judge, plaintiff, respondent, legal counsel, or other actor. Some students will be grouped together as legal staffs or as interest groups.

Each student must also submit a report of their activities, their role, and rationale for their position on each of the simulations. The report must also contain a bibliography of resources and a copy of the brief submitted to the court, or the decision if the student is playing the role of a judge.

Each simulation is worth 40% of the final course grade. Attendance is mandatory during all days of the simulation. Every absence during the simulation will result in a full grade reduction in the simulation grade as well as affect the overall attendance policy of the class, as outlined below.

**Class Participation:**

Every student will do 2 in-class reports of a case or statute related to the moot court cases. These briefs should be cases that will be used as precedent cases for either the majority or dissenters in the actual cases. The oral report should be approximately 5-10 minutes in length. A written one-page, single-spaced brief must also be distributed to the class on the day of the oral presentation.

Each oral report and written brief is worth 10% of the final grade.

**Comprehensive exam:**

A comprehensive multiple-choice exam will be administered to the class as part of the department's assessment program. Although the exam will be graded, it is not graded as part of the final grade for this class. All students majoring or minoring in political science must take the exam. Those students in the class that are not majors or minors will be excluded.

**Attendance:**

Class attendance is especially important in this class. Students depend on the cooperation of other students that may be teamed with them. Points will be deducted from the final grade based on the following absences (any student arriving late or leaving early will be considered absent):

0-1 0% deduction, 2-3 5% deduction, 4-5 10% deduction, 6 or more 20% deduction

The instructor reserves the right to deny any student missing 5 or more class meetings participation on any project or exam. The student may be required to withdraw from the course.

**Grading Scale:**

The following grading scale is used for the final course grade: 92-100% A, 90-91% A-, 88-89% B+, 82-87% B, 80-81% B-, 78-79% C+, 72-77% C, 70-71% C-, 68-69% D+, 60-67% D, 0-59% F.

**Notes:**

The instructor reserves the right to make necessary changes to these requirements.

The instructor reserves the right to set a seating arrangement at any time.

Students leaving early or arriving late will be considered absent from class.

Plagiarism, fraud, or academic misconduct will result in an F for the course and a report to the Dean's office.

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Jan	7	Introduction
	9	How to find a law and statute, handout
	14	How to find a law and statute, handout
	16	Guest Speaker
	21	No Classes--Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
	23	Guest Speaker
	28	Research Day
	30	Research Day
Feb	4	Student Reports
	6	Student Reports
	11	Student reports
	13	Student reports
	18	Moot Court Research Day
	20	Moot Court Research Day
	25	Moot Court #1
	27	Moot Court #1
March	4-8	Spring Break
March	11	Case Number 2 Research Day
	13	Research Day
	18	Student Reports
	20	Student Reports
	25	Student Reports
	27	Student Reports
April	1	Student Reports
	3	Guest Speaker
	8	Moot Court Research Day
	10	Moot Court Research Day
	15	Moot Court #2
	17	Moot Court #2