

**WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW**

**TRIAL PRACTICE 489B
SPRING 2012
Thursday 6:30 PM -9:45 PM
Moot Court Room
Western State Campus**

Professor Mark A. Sevigny
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SYLLABUS

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to give the student an introduction to the experience and knowledge of the exciting and complex process of being an advocate in a jury trial. The student will have an opportunity to actually participate in each phase of the trial process. There will be mandatory reading assignments and preparation assignments, but the great majority of our class time (more than 75%) will be spent on student presentations of the different segments of a jury trial.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Materials in Trial Advocacy, by Mauet and Wolfson, Seventh Edition, ISBN-0-7355-5631-7

Trial Practice, by Dubin and Guernsey, 1991

Highly Recommended:

Making and Meeting Objections II, by Wenke, 2006

GRADING AND EXAMINATIONS

Each student will receive a numeric grade for the course. The grade will be based on attendance, homework, preparation, verbal contributions to the class, and performances of various phases of jury trials including the Final Trial. The Final Examination involves presenting a complete jury trial from Jury Selection to Closing Argument in a four-hour period.

Attendance and preparation are extremely important. Preparation is the basic foundation of any attorney's trial performance. If the student is not present during the class, he/she cannot "practice" trial skills, nor can the student learn from observation of fellow students' performances. Any unexcused absence may reduce the course grade. According to Western State policy, a student who misses more than two classes will be academically dis-enrolled.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Trial Practice 489B

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(TP) Trial Practice
Dubin & Guernsey

(MTA) Materials in Trial Advocacy
Mauet & Wolfson

DATE	SUBJECT	ASSIGNMENT FOR CLASS
1. January 19, 2012	Introduction & Course Requirements	TP Ch. 1
2. January 26, 2012	Opening Statement	TP Ch. 3 MTA 9.1, 9.6, 9.12
3. February 2, 2012	Direct and Cross Examination	TP Ch. 4, 5, 6, 7 MTA 3.3, 3.6, 3.9
4. February 9, 2012	Direct and Cross Examination	TP Ch. 4,5,6,7 MTA 3.10, 3.13, 3.16,
5. February 16, 2012	Direct and Cross Examination	TP Ch. 4,5,6,7 MTA 3.17, 4.12, 4.13,
6. February 23, 2012	Direct and Cross Examination	TP Ch. 4,5,6,7 MTA 4.21, 4.22, 4.23, 4.25
7. March 1, 2012	Direct and Cross Examination	TP Ch. 4,5,6,7 MTA 4.26, 5.2, 5.6, 5.13
8. March 15, 2012	Cross Examination of Defense Witnesses	TP Ch. 4,5,6,7 MTA 7.1, 7.2, 7.8
9. March 22, 2012	Cross Examination of Defense Witnesses	TP Ch. 4,5,6,7 MTA 7.1, 7.2, 7.8
10. March 29, 2012	Cross Examination of Expert Witnesses	TP Ch. 8 MTA 6.4, 6.9, 6.10
11. April 5, 2012	Closing Argument	TP Ch. 9 MTA 8.1, 8.3 8.5
12. April 12, 2012	Voir Dire/Jury Selection Assignment of Finals Teams	TP Ch. 2 MTA
13. April 19, 2012	In Limine Motions & Jury Instructions	TBD
14. April 26, 2012	Final Exam #1 - Jury Trial	TBD
15. May 3, 2012*	Final Exam #2 - Jury Trial	TBD
*tentative		