

JLS*4000: Justice and Legal Studies Capstone**Credit Weighting:** 1.0**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** 14.00 credits, including
POLS*3130, POLS*3350
or POLS*3020**Restrictions:** BAH.JLS and BAH.JLS:C**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Dennis Baker**Email:** bakerd@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** MacKinnon 541**GENERAL DETAILS**

In this capstone course, students will synthesize and apply the multidisciplinary knowledge they have gained throughout the JLS major through project-based learning, namely by participating in a simulated trial where the legal controversy arises from a JLS area of emphasis. Students will critically engage in the trial using the skills that they have acquired (such as communication, research methods, and legal research skills), and will apply their substantive and conceptual understanding of law, legal process, justice to their broader area of emphasis. In addition to honing advocacy skills, this exercise will allow students to critically reflect on the distortions that the legal process can have on knowledge dissemination and impact. Students will critically reflect on such questions as how law and legal processes shape and are shaped by broader social and political power dynamics, the degree to which law is "political"; and how the framing of the issue and solutions during the simulation in terms of law and justice created strategies, goals, and outcomes that may be distinct from other social and political approaches to the issue.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will build on their skills in finding, reading, summarizing and properly citing judicial decisions using such legal research tools as QuickLaw, CanLII, and HeinOnline. Students will learn and apply different writing styles (factum writing, journalistic, and reflective) as well as different presentation skills, including oral advocacy. These skills will be developed experientially as students also learn how the trial process is shaped by politics and how politics shapes the trial process. In addition to these specific research skills, the more general Political Science / JLS (and Bachelor of Arts) learning outcomes of advancing your critical thinking, literacy, communication and global understanding skills will be furthered.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Book Review (500 words) 10%
Area of Emphasis Case Report (1000 words) 20%
Mock Trial Role 30%
Newspaper Account (500 words) 10%
Reflection on Trial Process (2000 words) 30%

REQUIRED READING

Janet Malcolm, *Iphigenia in Forest Hills: Anatomy of a Murder Trial* (Yale University Press, 2011).
Additional readings available via CourseLink.