ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE NAME: Criminal Trial Techniques
COURSE NUMBER: Law 8820

PROFESSORS: James R. Wyrsch, James R. Hobbs

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure; Evidence

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES:

COURSE BOOKS: Missouri Criminal Trial Practice by James R. Wyrsch, Susan Hunt, and Judge Anthony Nugent, published by Harrison Law Books. This book is available in the UMKC Law Library. We recommend this text.

METHOD OF GRADING: 70% on term paper; 30% on class attendance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: This is primarily a lecture and demonstration course concerning trial and other techniques for handling a criminal case, both in federal and state courts. Our objective in this course is to present law students with the opportunity to learn the practical aspects of criminal trial practice. To provide a comprehensive overview of the system, we invite judges, prosecutors, and criminal defense practitioners so that students have an opportunity to meet experienced lawyers who practice in this area.

COURSE CONTENTS: The subject matter of the course covers techniques for handling a criminal case from the initial meeting with the client to post-conviction remedies.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES: Course provides good training for those planning to be prosecutors or public defenders. Course could also be useful for those planning to be trial lawyers without a specialty in criminal law.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION: The course will assist students to better understand criminal law which is a subject on the Missouri Bar examination.