

LIST III HT

HIU33117 The Politics of Justice: The History of the 'Scottsboro Trial' in 1930s America (Molly Pucci)

Assessment: Essay 1 40% /Essay 2 60%



In this module, we will look at historical approaches to political trials in the twentieth century with a focus on the 'Scottsboro Trial,' a major civil rights case in the Depression-era United States. Which historical sources can we use to understand the history of political trials, justice, and law? What makes a trial 'political'? We examine a diverse range of sources including the contemporary press, poetry, theater, legal documents, speeches, and literature from the period, as well as the memory of the case through the Cold War and beyond. We place the case in an international perspective and use it to examine the controversial and contested intersection between contemporary law, race, and politics.