Through discussion of a variety of high-profile and lesser-known trials throughout history, this course will examine a range of issues in the history of law and criminality. We will study the nature of demonstrative justice, the relationship between ideology and law in different societies, the politics of trials, and the relationship of trials to terror(ism) and social marginalization. A preliminary list of cases to be covered includes Socrates, Jesus Christ, the Inquisition, the French Revolutionary Terror, assassins’ trials, the Stalinist show trials, the war crimes trials at Nuremberg, culminating with more recent trials such as that of Charles Manson and Saddam Hussein.