

**2017 UCLA MOCK TRIAL INSTITUTE – MGMT 88**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS (Summer 2017)**

**INSTRUCTOR**

GONZALO FREIXES, Adjunct Professor  
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Gonzalo Freixes, a graduate of Loyola Law School, has been an Attorney at Law for 38 years and also holds a Master in Business Taxation (USC). He is an Adjunct Professor at UCLA Anderson School of Management where he has taught courses in Business Law and Taxation for 27 years. He currently serves as Associate Dean of the Fully Employed MBA Program and also teaches study abroad courses in International Regulation of Business in Europe and Latin America. Prof. Freixes is the Faculty Advisor and Head Coach of the UCLA Mock Trial Program. UCLA was the national collegiate mock trial champion in 2004, 2005, 2011 and 2014.

**TEXT**

Trial Advocacy Basics, 2012 Edition (Gitchel & O'Brien)  
*(Students need not purchase this book as select chapters will be included in the Course Reader that will be distributed the first day of class)*

**COURSE CONTENT**

This course will familiarize high school students with basic concepts of law, educate them about the American justice system and teach them effective trial advocacy techniques. The course is ideal for students competing in high school mock trial programs. However, no prior mock trial or public speaking experience is necessary. All students will learn about persuasive oral presentation, thinking on their feet, legal analysis and public speaking.

The course will cover basic concepts of law, courtroom demeanor, direct and cross examination, opening statements, closing arguments, courtroom exhibits, evidentiary trial objections and witness portrayal. The program will feature a visit to criminal felony trials in the Los Angeles Superior Court and a final mock trial competition. Students will work with Prof. Gonzalo Freixes, Associate Dean at the UCLA Anderson School and Faculty Advisor/Head Coach for the UCLA Mock Trial Program. They will also work extensively in small teams with college counselors who are competitors in the UCLA Mock Trial Program.

The Mock Trial will be based on the murder case of *People vs. Michael Harmon*.

**READINGS**

Chapters in the class textbook will be assigned, along with special articles and publications from the selected course materials.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Grades will be based on the following:

Examination: 50%  
Class Participation: 50%

Class Participation will be based on trial preparation and contributions to the team. The examination will test knowledge in trial advocacy, evidence and law (all covered in class lectures). The exam will be held on Friday, July 21, 2017 and is open book, open notes.

### **SESSION ONE** (Sunday, July 16)

Introduction to collegiate mock trial, program overview and mock trial demonstration

### **SESSION TWO** (Monday, July 17) – Chapters 1, 3 & 6; Review *People v. Harmon* case

Subjects include the judicial system, mock trial, trial decorum and direct examination. Team workshops to determine mock trial roles and discuss case strategy.

### **SESSION THREE** (Tuesday, July 18) – Chapters 5, 7, & 12

Subjects include opening statements, closing arguments and cross examination. Students continue working with teams on mock trial preparation. Evening will feature an excursion with your team and counselors to Westwood Village.

### **SESSION FOUR** – (Wednesday, July 19) - Chapters 8, 9, 10 & 11

Subjects include objections, rules of evidence, expert witnesses and impeachment. Students continue working with teams in mock trial preparation.

### **SESSION FIVE** – (Thursday, July 20)

Field trip to observe trials or preliminary hearings at the Criminal and Civil Courts of the Los Angeles Superior Court in downtown Los Angeles.

### **SESSION SIX** – (Friday, July 21)

Course Examination and continued trial preparation for final mock trial competition.

### **SESSION SEVEN** – (Saturday, July 22) – *Parents, family and friends may attend.*

9:30 a.m. Round 1 of final mock trial competition  
1:30 p.m. Round 2 of final mock trial competition  
4:30 p.m. Closing and Awards Ceremony