

**2020 UCLA MOCK TRIAL INSTITUTE – MGMT 88**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS (Summer 2020)**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Gonzalo Freixes, Adjunct Professor  
[gonzalo.freixes@anderson.ucla.edu](mailto:gonzalo.freixes@anderson.ucla.edu) - (310) 794-6640 - Anderson D417

Gonzalo Freixes, a graduate of Loyola Law School, has been an Attorney at Law for 40 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, International Business and Taxation for 29 years. He currently serves as Associate Dean of the Fully Employed and Executive MBA Programs and also teaches study abroad courses in International Business in Europe, Asia and Latin America. Prof. Freixes is Faculty Advisor and Head Coach of the UCLA Mock Trial Program (national collegiate champions in 2004, 2005, 2011 and 2014).

**TEXT**

Trial Advocacy Basics, 2012 Edition (Gitchel & O'Brien) – Students can purchase at the UCLA bookstores or online. Textbook is strongly recommended but not required.

Course Reader – The program will provide a Course Reader that contains the 2020 case materials (at no additional cost).

**COURSE CONTENT**

This course will familiarize high school students with law and jurisprudence, the American justice system and 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 and legal analysis.

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 webinar by legal professionals and a final virtual 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 or who compete at other universities.

The Mock Trial will be based on the murder case of *People vs. Danny Dawson*.

**READINGS**

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

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

This course is a 2-unit class at UCLA and the grade that you receive will go on your college transcript. So please take the academic portion of this course very seriously. Course grades are comprised of the following:

Examination: 60%      Class Participation: 40%

Class Participation is 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 online on Friday, July 17, 2020 and is open book, open notes.

### **SESSION ONE** (Sunday, July 12)      - Review *People v. Thornhill* case

Program welcome and orientation session. Introduction to legal analysis, the judicial system, and mock trial basics. Students meet their team counselors.

### **SESSION TWO** (Monday, July 13)      - Chapter 1 & 3 – optional reading

Introduction to trial decorum. Session on direct examination techniques. First two team workshops to discuss mock trial case roles and strategy. Direct examination drafts submitted online to CCLE by 10 pm.

### **SESSION THREE** (Tuesday, July 14)      – Chapters 6, 7, 8 & 10 – optional reading

Subjects include cross-examination, witness impeachment, opening statements, and closing arguments. Students continue to work with counselors on case roles and strategy. Cross examination drafts submitted online to CCLE by 10 pm.

### **SESSION FOUR** (Wednesday, July 15) – Chapters 5, 11 & 12 – optional reading

Second session on evidentiary objections and the rules of evidence. Students continue working with teams on mock trial preparation. Statement drafts submitted online to CCLE by 10 pm.

### **SESSION FIVE** – (Thursday, July 16) - Chapter 11 – optional reading

Special sessions on witness preparation and testimony techniques. Students continue working with teams in mock trial preparation. Direct examination with witness answers submitted online to CCLE by 10 pm.

### **SESSION SIX** – (Friday, July 17) – No assigned chapters

Course Examination and continued trial preparation for final mock trial competition. Webinar with judge and/or attorneys.

### **SESSION SEVEN** – (Saturday, July 18) – *Parents, family and friends may attend virtually.*

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