

SAMPLE SYLLABUS. Enrolled students will receive the finalized syllabus prior to the start of the institute.

**2023 UCLA MOCK TRIAL INSTITUTE – MGMT 88**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS (Summer 2023)**

**INSTRUCTOR**

GONZALO FREIXES, Adjunct Professor  
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Gonzalo Freixes, a graduate of Loyola Law School, has been an Attorney at Law for 41 years and also holds a Master in Business Taxation (USC). He is an Adjunct Professor at UCLA Anderson School of Management where he teaches courses in Business Law, International Business and Taxation. He currently serves as Associate Dean of the Fully Employed and Executive MBA Programs and also teaches study abroad courses in International Business. Prof. Freixes is Faculty Advisor of the UCLA Mock Trial Program (national collegiate champions in 2004, 2005, 2011 and 2014).

**TEXT**

(Optional) Trial Advocacy Basics, Any edition is fine (Gitchel and/or O'Brien) – Students can purchase at UCLA bookstores or online. Textbook is recommended but not required.

Course Reader – The program will provide a Course Reader that contains the 2023 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 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 or who compete at other universities. The Mock Trial will be based on the murder case of *People vs. Ashley Thornhill* (the alleged murder of a business partner).

**READINGS**

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

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

MGMT 88 is a 2-unit UCLA class 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 based on the following:

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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 on Friday, July 21, 2023 and is open book, open notes.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** After taking the course, students will:

1. Acquire knowledge of the legal system in the United States.
  2. Make effective and persuasive oral presentations
  3. Understand the legal analysis process
  4. Effectively work in a team setting
- Learn basic rules and techniques of trial advocacy (examination of witnesses, presentation of opening statements and closing arguments, effective witness portrayal, federal rules of evidence).

**PRE-CLASS SESSIONS** (Due by July 16)

Students should view five (5) short online videos and complete the online quiz by July 10, 2023.

**SESSION ONE** (Sunday, July 16)    -Review *People v. Thornhill* case

Dormitory check-in, program orientation and team meetings with counselors.

**SESSION TWO** (Monday, July 17)    - Chapter 1, 3, 6 and 7 – optional reading

Session on Direct Examination and Cross-Examination techniques. First two team workshop to discuss mock trial case roles and strategy.

**SESSION THREE** (Tuesday, July 18)      – Chapters 5, 8 and 9 – optional reading

Subjects include witness impeachment, expert witnesses, opening statements and closing arguments. Students continue to work with counselors on case roles and strategy. Evening will feature an excursion with your team and counselors to Westwood Village.

**SESSION FOUR** (Wednesday, July 19) – Chapters 10, 11 & 12 – optional reading

Sessions on evidentiary objections, the rules of evidence and introducing exhibits. Special evening session on witness preparation and testimony techniques. Students continue working with teams on mock trial preparation.

**SESSION FIVE** – (Thursday, July 10) – No assigned chapters

Field trip to observe jury 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.*

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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