

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 – virtual program)**

**INSTRUCTORS**

GONZALO FREIXES, Adjunct Professor  
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ELIZABETH SMILEY, *Attorney at Law and Head Coach – UCLA Mock Trial Program*  
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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 and serves as Associate Dean of the Fully Employed and Executive MBA Programs. Elizabeth Smiley has been an attorney at law in California for six years and works as a litigation associate for Baron & Budd, P.C. She is the head coach of the UCLA Mock Trial Program and serves on the Board of Directors of the American Mock Trial Association.

**TEXT**

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

Course Materials – The program will provide Course Materials on the BruinLearn course site.

**COURSE CONTENT**

This course will familiarize high school students with the study of law, 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* (a murder at an advertising firm).

**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 14, 2023 and is open book, open notes.

**PRE-CLASS WORK:** (due by July 9, 2023)

Five (5) pre-class videos will cover the course syllabus, the legal system, mock trial, direct examination and cross-examination. You should watch these videos and complete short online quizzes (to count towards class participation) by 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 9, 2023. Videos and the quiz will be available on the BRUINLEARN course learning site.

**SESSION ONE** (Sunday, July 9)      - Review *People v. Ashley Thornhill* case

Introduction and orientation about the program and mock trial basics. Discussion of *Thornhill* case. Mock trial demonstration . Teams meet with their coaches.

**SESSION TWO** (Monday, July 10)      – 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 on BruinLearn.

**SESSION THREE** (Tuesday, July 11) – 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 on BruinLearn.

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

Evidentiary objections and the rules of evidence. Students continue working with teams on mock trial preparation. Statement drafts submitted online on BruinLearn.

**SESSION FIVE** – (Thursday, July 13) – Chapter 11 – optional reading

Special sessions on witness preparation and testimony techniques. Students continue working with teams in mock trial preparation. Guest speakers from the Los Angeles Superior Court to discuss effective trial techniques. Direct examination questions with witness answers submitted online on BruinLearn.

**SESSION SIX** – (Friday, July 14) – No assigned chapters

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

**SESSION SEVEN** – (Saturday, July 15) – *Parents, family and friends may attend.*

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