INSTRUCTOR

GONZALO FREIXES, J. D., MBT
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Gonzalo Freixes, a graduate of Loyola Law School, has been an Attorney at Law for 36 years and also holds a Master in Business Taxation (USC). He has been a Business Law and Taxation professor at UCLA Anderson for 25 years and currently serves as Associate Dean of the FEMBA Programs and Faculty Director of the MBA’s Applied Management Research (AMR) Program. He also teaches study abroad courses in International Regulation of Business in Europe and Latin America. Prof. Freixes coaches the UCLA Mock Trial teams, national collegiate mock trial champions in 2004, 2005, 2011 and 2014.

TEXT

Trial Advocacy Basics
2012 Edition (Gitchel & O’Brien)

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. Ashley Thornhill.

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.

SESSION ONE (Sunday, July 12)

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

SESSION TWO (Monday, July 13) – Chapters 1, 3 & 6; Review People v. Thornhill 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 14) – 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 15) - 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 16)

Field trip to observe felony jury trials or preliminary hearings at the Criminal Courthouse of the Los Angeles Superior Court in downtown Los Angeles.

SESSION SIX – (Friday, July 17)

Examination, followed by continued trial preparation for final mock trial competition.

SESSION SEVEN – (Saturday, July 18)

Morning: Round I of final mock trial competition
Afternoon: Round 2 of final mock trial competition
Certificate and Awards Ceremony