

UMBC UGC New Course Request: POLI330: Mock Trial

Date Submitted: 2/21/19

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2019

	Name	Email	Phone	Dept
Dept Chair or UPD	Carolyn Forestiere	forestie@umbc.edu	410-455-8160	POLI
Other Contact	Benjamin Garmoe	Ben.garmoe@gmail.com	202-316-7883	POLI

COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Number(s)	POLI330
Formal Title	Mock Trial
Transcript Title (≤30c)	Mock Trial
Recommended Course Preparation	One GEP Social Science or Humanities Course
Prerequisite NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a "D" or better.	None
# of Credits Must adhere to the <u>UMBC Credit Hour Policy</u>	1
Repeatable for additional credit?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Max. Total Credits	⁴ This should be equal to the number of credits for courses that cannot be repeated for credit. For courses that may be repeated for credit, enter the maximum total number of credits a student can receive from this course. E.g., enter 6 credits for a 3 credit course that may be taken a second time for credit, but not for a third time. Please note that this does NOT refer to how many times a class may be retaken for a higher grade.
Grading Method(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION (Approximately 75 words in length. Please use full sentences.):

This course is for competing members of the Mock Trial Team to receive academic credit for their extracurricular work. Students will be expected to attend regular practice sessions, complete weekly assignments, and compete at outside tournaments. Students will utilize the case materials provided by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) to learn about the trial advocacy process and participate in extracurricular competition.

RATIONALE FOR NEW COURSE:

UMBC has a proud tradition of participating in and succeeding at intellectual competitions. The Political Science Department is home to three of those intellectual sports: Mock Trial, Moot Court, and Model United Nations. This course is modeled after the POLI384L Model UN course, and would allow members of the Mock Trial team to receive academic credit for participating in tournaments and extracurricular competitions. Students can join the Mock Trial Program without taking this course, but they cannot take this course unless they are a member of a competing team. Our teams are open to all students, regardless of major or course of study.

Mock Trial is a demanding and engaging activity where students simulate all aspects of a jury trial. Each participant portrays an attorney, a witness, or sometimes both. Students are provided with a case packet in August of each year, prepared and written by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA). To be successful, students must master the Rules of Evidence, memorize and analyze provided case law and statutes, and immerse themselves in the provided case materials. At tournaments, students compete on both sides of the case (twice as Plaintiff/Prosecution and twice as Defense) against other colleges and universities from around the country.

Mock Trial is one of UMBC's most successful organizations. The team has advanced to the Opening Round Championship Series (ORCS) – the National Semi-final Tournament – for four consecutive years, and has advanced both the “A” and “B” teams to ORCS the last two years. In 2017, our “A” team advanced to the National Championship Tournament, which is an elite field of 48 teams out of more than 700 teams nationwide. UMBC Mock Trial also competes at numerous “invitational” tournaments, and has won two invitational tournaments this academic year, at Duke University and Georgetown University.

I offered Mock Trial as a one-credit course in the Fall of 2017 and 2018, and it was successful in incentivizing students to join the team and remain in the program even through the rigors of competition season. I plan to offer the course every Fall and allow returning members to repeat the course up to four total credit hours. This design encourages students to remain with the program for multiple seasons and attend several tournaments each year.

I wish to offer this course at the 300-level because it will build off the knowledge students will gain in their introductory Social Science or Humanities course that I have listed as a recommended preparation course. Mock Trial teaches skills that applies to many disciplines, as evidenced by our program alumni working in fields as diverse as environmental research or veterinary studies, and this course design will attract students from a broad range of disciplines. The Model United Nationals one-credit course is also at the 300-level.

ATTACH COURSE SYLLABUS (mandatory):

See attached.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY (UMBC)

Legal Advocacy (Mock Trial) – POLI 339

Class Syllabus

Semester: Spring 2019
Class: Sondheim 114
Professor: Benjamin Garmoe
Email: ben.garmoe@gmail.com
Office: PUP358 (by appointment only)

Course Description

Legal Advocacy is an opportunity to get hands-on exposure to the trial process. This course will focus heavily on the components of a jury trial, and will use case materials from the American Mock Trial Association as a supplemental learning tool beyond in-class discussion. Students will eventually be divided into “teams” and will spend the last several weeks of the semester applying the knowledge acquired in this class by competing in actual “Mock Trial” rounds. This course will also briefly cover appellate advocacy, commonly known as “Moot Court.”

This is a public speaking class. At points during the semester, you will be asked to try a skill or an activity in front of the class, and at the end of the semester you will compete in actual internal Mock Trial rounds against your classmates. It is completely fine if you don’t feel very comfortable with public speaking! My biggest emphasis will be on creating a collaborative and supportive environment for everyone to learn together. That said, if you absolutely cannot speak in front of a class under any circumstances, this is likely not the course for you.

Goals

The primary goal of this course is to enhance understanding about the trial process. I want you to leave this course with a comprehensive introduction to practicing trial advocacy in the real world. I also want you to gain an understanding of the Rules of Evidence, courtroom decorum, and the benefits and detriments of our adversarial trial system.

About Me

My name is Ben Garmoe, and I’m a civil trial attorney in the Baltimore area. I do primarily auto accident defense litigation for GEICO. I would say I did approximately 60-70 trials in the past year. I’m a proud 2013 graduate of UMBC, and a 2016 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law. I’m also the head coach of UMBC Mock Trial, and I’ve been doing Mock Trial

in some form since 2003 when I started as a freshman in high school. I love trial advocacy, mock trial, and working with college students, and I am incredibly excited to be working with you.

Because I'm a full-time trial lawyer, I'm very rarely on campus before 7 PM. As a result, my office hours are "by appointment only." If you need to reach me, send me an email at ben.garmoe@gmail.com. I'm in court basically every day, so if I don't respond right away, I'm probably in trial. But I promise to do my absolute best to respond within 24 hours. If I don't meet that response time and you really need to hear from me, email me again. I promise I won't be offended by multiple emails and in fact will probably appreciate the reminder.

Grading & Attendance

This course will use the following grading scale:

Attendance:	10%
Weekly Paragraph Assignments:	20%
"Mock Trial" Performance	60%
Court Observation	10%

It is important to note that "mock trial performance" does not mean you will be penalized if you struggle with nerves or a lack of experience with public speaking. Your grade will be based on your effort and your willingness to learn and improve throughout the semester, as well as your complete participation with your teammates to prepare for trials.

The class attendance policy allows for **one** unexcused absence, meaning an absence without justification. You do not need to email me to use this absence; I will simply mark you as absent if you do not appear in class. However, this does not apply to the final three weeks of class when we are doing actual Mock Trial rounds. Attendance is **mandatory** for all of those class sessions except in the case of an emergency, as your presence will be needed to ensure your team is able to compete.

You will have weekly reading assignments and weekly paragraph submissions due on Blackboard. These should take 5-10 minutes each week and will cover topics discussed in class. They will be posted after each Wednesday class session and will be due by following Tuesday evening at midnight.

As part of your final grade, you are required to do one "courtroom observation" session. At some point before the end of the semester, you should attend either a) a full trial, from beginning to end, or b) at least two hours of a single trial. Some trials are over in less than two hours, while others may extend for days or weeks, so it is entirely up to you to decide how you want to complete this assignment. I will provide resources in class to help you find trials to attend.

There is no final exam for this class. If we are assigned an exam date/time, you can disregard that session. This course will end before exams begin.

Class Policies

I encourage you to bring your laptops and use them during class, as there will be a lot of electronic material in this course. That said, there will be periods of time during some classes where I ask you to put them away so you can focus on an activity or a specific piece of information. Additionally, I don't have a problem with having cell phones out during class, as long as they are used rarely and that you give me the courtesy of your attention when I'm speaking.

Disclosures of Sexual Misconduct and Child Abuse or Neglect

As an instructor, I am considered a Responsible Employee, per UMBC's Policy on Prohibited Sexual Misconduct, Interpersonal Violence, and Other Related Misconduct (located at <http://humanrelations.umbc.edu/sexual-misconduct/umbc-resource-page-for-sexual-misconduct-and-other-related-misconduct/>). While my goal is for you to be able to share information related to your life experiences through discussion and written work, I want to be transparent that as a Responsible Employee I am required to report disclosures of sexual assault, domestic violence, relationship violence, stalking, and/or gender-based harassment to the University's Title IX Coordinator.

As an instructor, I also have a mandatory obligation to report disclosures of or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect (www.usmh.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionVI/VI150.pdf).

The purpose of these reporting requirements is for the University to inform you of options, supports and resources; you will not be forced to file a report with the police. Further, you are able to receive supports and resources, even if you choose to not want any action taken. Please note that in certain situations, based on the nature of the disclosure, the University may need to take action.

If you need to speak with someone in confidence about an incident, UMBC has the following Confidential Resources available to support you:

The Counseling Center: 410-455-2472

University Health Services: 410-455-2542

(After-hours counseling and care available by calling campus police at 410-455-5555)

Other on-campus supports and resources:

The Women's Center, 410-455-2714

Title IX Coordinator, 410-455-1606

Additional on and off campus supports and resources can be found at:

<http://humanrelations.umbc.edu/sexual-misconduct/gender-equitytitle-ix/>.

Course Materials

1. Lubet & Koster, *Mock Trials*.
2. *Andy Allen v. Neptune Underwater Expeditions* case file, provided by instructor.

Course Schedule

1. January 30, 2019: Introduction and overview on the trial process
Reading assignment: None
2. February 6, 2019: Opening Statements
Reading assignment: Mock Trials, Chapter 13
3. February 13, 2019: Direct Examination
Reading assignment: Mock Trials, Chapter 6
4. February 20, 2019: Class cancelled
5. February 27, 2019: Cross Examination
Reading assignment: Mock Trials, Chapter 8
6. March 6, 2019: Evidence and Objections, Part One
Reading assignment: Mock Trials, Chapter 5 and 12
7. March 13, 2019: Evidence and Objections, Part Two (Expert Witnesses)
Reading assignment: Mock Trials, Chapter 11
8. March 20, 2019: Closing Arguments
Reading assignment: Mock Trials, Chapter 14
9. March 27, 2019: Appellate Advocacy
Reading assignment: None
10. April 3, 2019: Communication Techniques
Reading assignment: Mock Trials, Chapter 3

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 11. April 10, 2019: | Team Practice |
| 12. April 17, 2019: | Trial Rounds |
| 13. April 24, 2019: | Trial Rounds |
| 14. May 1, 2019: | Trial Rounds |
| 15. May 8, 2019: | Final Round Trials |