



Fall 2019 Syllabus

GVPT217 – Mock Trial: Intro to Trial Advocacy

GVPT388M – Advanced Trial Advocacy



GVPT217 & GVPT388M are co-curricular courses for students in the Maryland Mock Trial Program. Maryland Mock Trial's mission is to: (1) teach students about the American trial system; (2) develop students' persuasive speaking, acting, performance, and storytelling skills; and (3) compete at the highest level of collegiate mock trial. As members of Maryland Mock Trial, you will travel to tournaments as representatives of the University of Maryland to compete against other colleges and universities. Because our goal is to win our sixth national championship, it is important to know that being a member of the program requires a substantial time commitment, including mandatory meetings and practices on weekends.

Given the unique nature of our co-curricular program, our policies are located both in this syllabus and the student handbook. All students are responsible for being aware of and following all of the Maryland Mock Trial Program policies. If you are unsure of the expectations and requirements, do not hesitate to ask for clarification.

Learning Outcomes

Through the readings, public speaking exercises, and trial simulations, the program will introduce students to the trial process and advocacy techniques through experiential learning in preparation for competing in American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) sponsored intercollegiate mock trial competitions. By engaging in competition with classmates and teams from other institutions, students develop critical thinking and public speaking skills as well as knowledge of legal practices and procedures.

During the course, students are expected to develop and demonstrate:

- Knowledge of the methods and theories used in trial advocacy
- An understanding of the courtroom procedures and AMTA rules
- Mastery of a witness including portrayal and relevant evidence witness
- Oral communication skills to effectively present opening statements, direct examinations, cross examinations, and closing arguments
- Proficiency in the analysis and presentation of evidentiary arguments

William Zachariah Mundy

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Class Meets

Wednesday 6:30pm-9:30pm

Sunday 9am-4pm

TYD 1102

Office Hours

TYD 1141 &

3125 S. Campus Dining Hall

Schedule using

calend.ly/wzmundy

Trial Team Coaches

Amanda Radke

Rima Kikani

Charli Cleland

Ryan Walburn

Spencer Reiss

Courtney Watkins

Natalie Pike

Lauren Gerber

Rahul Srinivas

Emani Walks

Hershini Gopal

Irvin McCullough



Texts & Resources

1. All students are **required** to have either:
 - a. Mauet, *Trial Techniques* [ISBN-13: 978-1454886532; The current edition is the 10th edition, but the 7th edition or newer will suffice.]
 - OR**
 - b. Lubet, *Mock Trials* [ISBN-13: 978-1601563330]
- * If you would like more information about a subject or believe Mauet or Lubet inadequately or ineffectively explain a topic/technique, please let me know. I have other texts and resources you can borrow that may better explain or provide more detail about a specific topic (i.e. cross, expert evidence, etc.).
2. All students are **required** to have up to date copies of the case packet and the student handbook, which will both be provided in a PDF.
3. All students are **required** to download the AMTA Rulebook and the Midlands Rules of Evidence available at collegemocktrial.org/resources/rules-and-forms/.
4. Students who aspire to have attorney roles are **recommended** to have:
 - a. Johnson & Hunter, *The Articulate Advocate* [ISBN-13: 978-1939506030]
 - b. Goode & Wellbourn, *Courtroom Evidence Handbook: 2019-2020 Student Edition* [ISBN-13: 978-1642427738]. Any version after 2014-15 will be substantially similar (though older versions are still very useful and typically <\$5).

Course Communication

General communications from coaches and teams are primarily sent by email. Other forms of communication that will be used are Google Calendar (scheduling); Google Drive/Docs (revisions, comments, and task assignments), Google Forms (feedback & planning); GroupMe (team discussions and when traveling), & ELMS (grades).

Occasionally, students will also be asked to complete a Google Form to provide information about their availability, preferences, future plans, etc. They will be sent out on an as needed basis and usually take less than five (5) minutes. When they are sent, they should be completed as soon as possible.

Students will also be asked to provide their cell phone number as well as an emergency contact in case of emergency.

Students are expected to turn ON notifications from the modes of communication described above (or any alternatives adopted by the team) and to respond to communications from coaches and teammates in a reasonable amount of time given the exigency of the circumstances. This could be one day for a basic scheduling email or immediately (i.e. within a minute or two) when traveling or at a tournament.



Grading Policy

Your grade is determined by your individual performance on exercises and quizzes as well as your performance during practice trials and tournaments. All assessment scores will be posted on the course ELMS page. If an alternative assignment is required by the instructor to make up for missing any assessments listed below, it must be submitted by the required deadline. Late work will not be accepted, so please plan to have it submitted well before the scheduled deadline.

Exercises	10%	A+	98-100%	B+	87-89%
Quizzes	30%	A	94-97%	B	84-86%
Practice Trials & Tournaments	40%	A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%
Trial Terps Cup	10%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
Teamwork & Civility	10%	C	74-76%	D	64-66%
		C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%

- Exercises
 - Students will perform four exercises in class to demonstrate their development of persuasive speaking and storytelling as well as their command of the assigned readings. When exercises require performance as both an attorney and a witness, the grade will be equally divided. Each exercise will be worth 2.5% of the final grade.
- Quizzes
 - Students will be required to take three quizzes to demonstrate their knowledge of (1) AMTA rules & Maryland Mock Trial policies; (2) trial advocacy techniques & courtroom procedures; and (3) the State v. Ryder case packet. The tentative schedule for the three quizzes is: October 16th, November 6th, and December 4th. Each quiz will be worth 10% of the final grade.
- Practice Trials & Tournaments
 - Throughout the semester, there will be many practice trials and some students will be selected to attend tournaments. This portion of your grade will be based on your demonstrated preparation, knowledge of the case packet, mock trial procedures, trial advocacy techniques, the assigned readings, and AMTA rules. You will not be graded on your natural talent, but your grade will include your ability to incorporate coach feedback and improve during the semester. This component will be separated into two parts, with performances in October as well as November/December each representing 20% of your final grade (40% total).
- Trial Terps Cup
 - Students will be graded on their performance during the end of semester Trial Terps Cup based on the criteria listed in the Practice Trials & Tournaments section above. The Trial Terps Cup is in internal competition similar to a final exam though it includes awards and prizes.
- Teamwork & Civility
 - Competing in mock trial requires a dedication to doing everything you can to help the team succeed. This portion of your grade will be based on your demonstrated commitment to teamwork while exemplifying professionalism and civility.



1-on-1 Meetings

To ensure students have the opportunity to discuss their goals as a member of the program, to discuss development during the semester, and to voice any concerns, students will meet with the program director twice during the semester. The initial meeting will focus on expectation setting, student goals, and developing a plan to reach those goals. The second meeting will review the student's progress during the semester, address student concerns (about their roles, team dynamic, etc.), and discuss plans for regionals and the spring semester.

The first meeting should occur before September 25th.

The second meeting should occur before December 6th.

It is your responsibility to schedule the meetings. You can schedule the meetings through Calendly at calend.ly/wzmundy. If you are unavailable for the available meetings times, please let me know as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements.

Students can also schedule meetings throughout the semester to discuss case theory; individual or team concerns; mock trial, law school, and/or career goals, or review directs/crosses/openings/closings.

Background & Review Readings

The readings below are expected to be completed and are necessary for a successful completion of the course and participation in the program. During the first few weeks of the semester, the weekly assigned readings and exercises do not require much time. Students should use that time to complete the readings below.

AMTA's Getting Started FAQ

[available at collegemocktrial.org/about-amta/getting-started/]

AMTA's New School Handbook Chapters 2, 3, & 4

[in the Google Drive folder & available at collegemocktrial.org/about-amta/getting-started/]

Mauet, Chapter 1, "The Trial Process" & Chapter 2, "Psychology of Persuasion"

or

Lubet, Chapter 1, "Trial Basics"; Chapter 2, "Case Preparation"; & Chapter 3, "Communication Techniques"

Case Packet: State v. Ryder

[in the Google Drive folder]

Midlands Rules of Evidence

[in the Google Drive folder & available at collegemocktrial.org/resources/rules-and-forms/]

AMTA Rulebook

[in the Google Drive folder & at collegemocktrial.org/resources/rules-and-forms/]



Schedule: Readings, Exercises, & Trials

This is a tentative schedule and subject to change.

Wednesday, August 28th

Introduction to mock trial, the Maryland Mock Trial Program, & AMTA
Case Overview
Lecture on Storytelling & Persuasive Speaking

Wednesday, September 4th

Storytelling Exercise (All Students)
Lecture on Openings

Read before Class: Mauet, Chapter 4, “Opening Statements” **or** Lubet, Chapter 13, “Opening Statement”

Wednesday, September 11th

Opening Statement Exercise (All Students)
Lecture on Directs

Read before Class: Mauet, Chapter 5, “Direct Examination” **or** Lubet, Chapter 6, “Direct Examination”

Sunday, September 15th

Team BBQ – Tentative time 3pm-5pm [Attendance is optional]

Wednesday, September 18th

Direct Examination Exercise (All Students)
Cross Examination Lecture

Read before Class: Mauet, Chapter 6, “Cross Examination” **or** Lubet, Chapter 8, “Cross Examination”

Sunday, September 22nd

First Evidence Workshop [9am–1pm]

Read before Class: Midlands Rules of Evidence & Case Law

Wednesday, September 25th

Cross Examination Exercise (All Students)
Second Evidence Workshop & Case Law Discussion

Read before Class: Mauet, Chapter 7, “Exhibits & Visual Aids” **or** Lubet, Chapter 7, “Foundations and Exhibits”



Schedule – Exercises & Readings, continued

Sunday, September 29th

Third Evidence Lecture & Impeachment Overview [9am–12pm]
Team Meetings (Team Assignments) [1pm–3pm]

Read before Class: Mauet, Chapter 10, “Evidentiary Objections” **or** Lubet, Chapter 12, “Objections”

Wednesday, October 2nd

Team Meetings [All teams]

To do before Class: Minimum – Full directs for each witness (both sides, including potential backups);
Theme & Theory Strategy Sheet completed

Sunday, October 5th

Practice Trials [All teams]

To do before Class: Everything for one side of the case (including backup crosses)

Wednesday, October 9th

Practice Trials [All teams]

To do before Class: Everything for the other side of the case (including backup crosses)

Beginning Sunday, October 2nd, students should expect to have practice trials or team meetings each Wednesday evening and Sunday morning and afternoon.

All students are expected to be fully prepared for all team meetings and practice trials. Throughout the semester (and over breaks), students should continue to read, reread, and review: (1) the *entire* case packet; (2) their roles and associated materials; (3) the previously assigned readings; (4) any other pertinent chapters of Mauet/Lubet (i.e. Expert Witness, Closing Arguments, etc.); (5) the Midlands Rules of Evidence; and (6) the AMTA Rulebook.

Quizzes will be on October 16th, November 6th, and December 4th.

There will **not** be meetings or trial on Wednesday, November 27th or Sunday, December 1st.

Tryouts for Regionals teams will be held Saturday, December 7th & Sunday, December 8th.

Note: This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the Mock Trial Google Calendar for the latest schedule. In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closing, or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.



Schedule: Fall Competitions

Please let me know if you are unable to attend any of the fall tournaments. You will not be going to all or most of them. Nevertheless, we need to know immediately when you will be unavailable.

<u>Date</u>		<u>Tournament</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Teams</u>
October	26 th – 27 th	Charm City Classic	Baltimore, MD	UMBC	2
October	26 th – 27 th	Colonial Classic	Williamsburg, VA	William & Mary	1
November	2 nd – 3 rd	Quaker Classic	Philadelphia, PA	UPenn	2
November	16 th – 17 th	Scarlet Knight	New Brunswick, NJ	Rutgers	2
November	16 th – 17 th	Dragon Invitational	Philadelphia, PA	Drexel	2
November	23 rd – 24 th	Trial Terps Cup	In-house tournament (with prizes)		ALL
December	7 th – 8 th	Tryouts for Regionals	Regionals teams assigned ~Dec. 10th		ALL

Schedule: Winter-Spring

<u>Regionals Teams Calendar</u>		
<u>Deadline</u>		<u>Task Due</u>
December	27 th	Call order, theme, theory, & cross trees
January	1 st	<u>All</u> docs must be updated & in the folder
January	8 th	Opening, closing, & direct videos
January	12 th	Primary cross videos
January	15 th	Opening, closing, & direct videos (#2) (incorporating coach feedback)
January	19 th	Primary (#2) & all backup cross videos
January	22 nd	Opening, closing, & direct videos (#3) (incorporating coach feedback)
January	25 th – 26 th	Tournament, scrimmages, or practice trials

Teams are likely to compete in an invitational tournament, scrimmage with another school, or practice trial the weekend of January 25th-26th. Please plan to be back on campus by Friday, January 24th.

Regionals are held during the month of February. Dates and locations are TBD.

The Opening Round Championships, known as ORCs, are akin to a national semifinal tournament and will be held during the beginning and middle of March. Dates and locations are TBD.

The 36th annual AMTA National Championship Tournament will be held in April in Chicago, Illinois.



Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend all classes, practices, and team trials and to take full responsibility for preparation of their roles and their development. If you have a foreseeable conflict (e.g. taking the LSAT or attending a wedding), notify me as early as possible (we try to be very accommodating when we have advanced notice).

If for any reason, you cannot attend or will be late for any practice trial (even if you believe you will not be participating that day), you **must** contact (1) the program director, (2) your team coach, **and** (3) your team captain as soon as possible. Failure to do so can result in a letter grade reduction and may lead to loss of assigned role and/or be subject to team reassignment.

If you miss class when a graded assignment (quiz, pop quiz, exam, etc.) is administered, students will be expected to complete a similar assessment during the next class period or program meeting, provided that the absence was excused under the University attendance policy. Unexcused absences will result in a zero for the assignment. For more information about the University's attendance policy, including a list of university-sanctioned absences, please visit ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html.

Punctuality Policy

Students are expected to be at class and practices trials and prepared to begin at the scheduled time. If your trial begins at 6:30, you are expected to be in your seat and prepared for the trial at 6:30. This usually means you should be in the room by 6:15pm on Wednesdays or by 8:30am on Sundays. Students who are not prepared to begin at the scheduled time may be prohibited from participating that day; lose their assigned role; and/or be subject to team reassignment. Repeated unexcused tardiness may result in a letter grade reduction.

If you have a conflict, please let us know (we try to be very accommodating when we have advanced notice).

Additional Program Policies

The following program policies and expectations are outlined in detail in the Maryland Mock Trial Student Handbook and incorporated herein as if fully set forth in this syllabus:

- Captain's Duties
- Emergency
- Financial
- Preparation & Timelines
- Team Assignment & Roles
- Team Organization
- Travel Policy
- Trial Decorum

Names/Pronouns and Self Identifications

Maryland Mock Trial recognizes the importance of a diverse student body, and we are committed to fostering inclusive and equitable classroom environments. I invite you, if you wish, to tell us how you want to be referred to both in terms of your name and your pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, etc.). Visit trans.umd.edu for more information.



Student Resources

The University provides appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. The campus's Disability Support Service (DSS) works with students and faculty to address a variety of issues ranging from learning disabilities and attention deficit hyperactivity disorders to physical and psychological disabilities. To receive accommodations, students must first register with the DSS and have their disabilities documented by DSS. The DSS office then prepares an Accommodation Letter regarding needed accommodations. Students are responsible for presenting this letter to the course instructor by the end of the drop/add period, which is September 9, 2019.

Campus Policies

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include:

- Academic integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.