

Mooting Skills (Skill Course -I)

Objectives of the Course:

This course is designed to equip the students with practical skills essential for effective legal research, case analysis, strategic argumentation, witness handling, and oral advocacy at both trial and appellate levels. The course adopts an experiential learning approach through moot courts, role plays, simulations, and court visits to provide hands-on exposure to real-world legal practice.

The curriculum will focus on developing research and drafting skills for mooting.

Students will work in teams, emphasizing the importance of regular attendance and active participation. Engaging in this skill course will enhance critical thinking, legal reasoning, and advocacy techniques necessary for professional legal practice.

Course Contents:

Unit I: Research for Mooting and Legal Drafting

A. Foundations of Mooting

- Introduction to Mooting- Meaning, importance, and scope.
- Mooting vs. Debating vs. Mock Trials: Key differences.
- Structure of a Moot Court Competition: Memorials & Oral Advocacy.
- Memorial Structure – Cover page, index, issues, arguments, authorities, prayer
- Framing Issues & Arguments – Logical sequencing using the IRAC method (Issue, Rule, Application, Conclusion)
- Legal Research & Citation – Incorporating Ratio Decidendi, statutes, treaties, and authoritative sources
- Drafting & Formatting – Clarity, precision, adherence to citation standards (Bluebook, OSCOLA)

Unit II: Moot Court Skills

Introduction to Moot Courts: Moot Court Practice: Simulated Moot Court Sessions, Analysis of Moot Problems

Guidelines for Moot Court Participation

General Guidelines

- Team Composition
 - Teams typically consist of three members: Two speakers and one researcher.

- All team members must collaborate on research, drafting, and preparation.
- Dress Code
 - Formal attire is mandatory during all moot court sessions:
 - Male: Black suit, white shirt, black tie.
 - Female: Black suit with a white shirt or saree with a black coat.

Moot Problem Guidelines

- The moot problem will be distributed well in advance to allow adequate preparation.
- Content of Moot Problem:
 - Statement of facts, issues to be addressed, and legal context.
 - Relevant laws and jurisdictions to be applied.

Plagiarism Policy: Memorials and arguments must be original. Plagiarism exceeding 10% will lead to disqualification. Code of Conduct: Participants must uphold integrity, professionalism, and respect toward judges, opponents, and teammates.

- Any form of misconduct, including disrupting proceedings or violating guidelines, will result in penalties.

Evaluation

This assessment pattern for skill course will be same as the pattern followed by the university in all other skill courses

As a practical skill-based course, there will be no Mid-Term or End-Term written examination for this course. The students will be assessed through a Continuous Assessment for 50 marks based on their performance in moot court exercises, projects, assignments, class participation and attendance ensuring a holistic evaluation of their mooting skills and active involvement in the learning process. Written submission will be assessed for 30 marks and practical mooting skills will be assessed for 20 marks.

References:

1. Abhinandan Malik, Moot Courts and Mooting, Eastern Book Company (2nd ed, 2023)
2. KL Bhatia, Moot Court and Mock Trials - Art to and Art of Advocacy: Essentials of Court Craft, Lexis Nexis (2nd edn, 2018)
3. Harald Sippel, Marc Ohrendorf, Mooting to Win: How To Succeed In International Moot Court Competitions (South Asian Edition), Sweet and Maxwell (2019)
4. Satyendra Mani Tripathi, Arguendo: A Moot Court Handbook, Central Law Publication (2018)
5. OP Mishra, Moot Court (Pre-Trial Preparation and Participation in Trial Proceedings), Central law Agency (3rd ed. 2022)

Advocacy Skills (Skill Course -II)

Objectives of the Course:

This course is designed to equip the students with practical skills essential for effective legal research, case analysis, strategic argumentation, witness handling, and oral advocacy at both trial and appellate levels. The course adopts an experiential learning approach through client counselling, mock trials, role plays and simulations to provide hands-on exposure to real-world legal practice.

Students will work in teams, emphasizing the importance of regular attendance and active participation. Engaging in this skill course will enhance critical thinking, legal reasoning, and advocacy techniques necessary for professional legal practice.

Course Contents:

Unit I: Client Counselling, Interviewing and Negotiation Techniques

A. Client Counselling

- Understanding the Role of a Counsellor
- Effective Communication
- Gathering Relevant Information
- Providing Legal Advice
- Closing the Session

B. Interviewing Techniques

- Preparation Before the Interview
- Building Trust and Comfort
- Questioning Techniques
- Dealing with Difficult Situations
- Documentation

C. Negotiation Techniques

- Strategy and Practical problems

Unit II: Pre-Trial Preparations and Mock Trials

A. Pre-Trial Preparation

Selection of Case

Collection of Evidence

Preparation of Documents

Developing Narrative of Case

Preparation of Witness

B. Mock Trials

Opening Statements

Presentation of Evidence

Examinations of Witnesses: Direct, Cross-Examination and Re-Examination

Pre-Closing Arguments

Closing Argument

Judicial Deliberation & Verdict

Evaluation

This assessment pattern for skill course will be same as the pattern followed by the university in all other skill courses

As a practical skill-based course, there will be no Mid-Term or End-Term written examination for this course. The students will be assessed through a Continuous Assessment for 50 marks based on their performance in Client Counselling, Interviewing and Negotiation Techniques, Pre-Trial Preparations and Mock Trials, projects, assignments, class participation and attendance ensuring a holistic evaluation of their advocacy skills and active involvement in the learning process. Written submission will be assessed for 30 marks and practical advocacy skills will be assessed for 20 marks.

References:

1. Chief Justice Dr B Malik, Art of a Lawyer - (Cross Examination, Advocacy, Courtmanship), Universal (12th ed. 2017)
2. KL Bhatia, Moot Court and Mock Trials - Art to and Art of Advocacy: Essentials of Court Craft, Lexis Nexis (2nd edn, 2018)
3. Sudipto Sarkar & Sidharth Sethi, Hints on Modern Advocacy, Professional Ethics and The Art of Cross-Examination, Lexis Nexis (6th ed., 2023)
4. Kailas Nath Katju, Experiments in Advocacy (A Colossus in the Courts of justice), Universal (2015)
5. OP Mishra, Moot Court (Pre-Trial Preparation and Participation in Trial Proceedings), Central law Agency (3rd ed. 2022)