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NAME: James M. Douglas

TELEPHONE: 713.313.1122

EMAIL: james.douglas@tsu.edu

LOCATION: Room 221H

OFFICE HOURS:  Monday, Wednesday and Friday
                11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
                Thursday
                10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

(Other times by appointment)

NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR:

The dates listed on the assignment sheet are tentative, and our actual schedule may be
slightly faster or slower. We will, however, complete “all” of the assignments before the end of
the semester.

I know that this appears to be a lot of work and it is. But this is fun work, and at the end
of the fall semester, we will all know a lot more about civil rights, the US Constitution, society
and about ourselves. This includes me. Let’s have fun and remember reading and learning is
“fundamental”!
COURSE BOOKS & MATERIAL

1. Course materials prepared by Professor James Douglas

2. Historical information that surrounds each case discussed in class. You are required to do independent reading in order to be knowledgeable about the social climate surrounding each judicial decision.
COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVE

DESCRIPTION:

This course will introduce you to changing faces of civil rights, as it relates to African Americans in the United States. It begins with a look at judicial opinions during slavery and ends with issues related to affirmative action. The course also uncovers the impact social and cultural climate has on judicial opinions and how social activism influences a change in public opinion which in turn produces a change in laws.

OBJECTIVE:

To increase your understanding of the relationship between lawyers and social activists and the role both play in changing the law. You will also have a better understanding of the role of public opinion in decisions made by the Supreme Court.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course students will:

a. Have a better understanding of how and why common law gets made.

b. Have a better understanding of the role social pressure and politics play in the development of common law rules.

c. The role the US Supreme Court plays in establishing social policy.

d. The role social activist play in establishing social policy and changes in common law.

e. A real understanding of how laws get made.
GRADING

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

- Class Participation: 25%
- Final Paper: 75%
ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations will be made if they would allow a person with disabilities to effectively participate in the law school program. Reasonable accommodations may include:

1. A change in the law school program, so long as it does not alter the program’s fundamental nature;
2. Structural modifications (i.e., ramps, wide doorways, accessible bathrooms);
3. Providing modified equipment (i.e., braille keyboard on a word processor); and/or
4. Providing aids such as interpreters or readers.

PLEASE REFER TO THE STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS HANDBOOK FOR SPECIFIC PROCEDURES.
HEALTH AND SAFETY ON CAMPUS

1. Students are expected to continuously self-screen for the symptoms of COVID-19. The Center for Disease Control has a list of COVID-19 symptoms: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html. If you begin to show symptoms, notify your professor and leave the classroom. Limit contact with other individuals on campus and contact your healthcare provider for further guidance.

2. If, before coming to campus, a student starts exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 or does not feel well, the student should not attend class in person. The student should immediately notify the Assistant Dean for Student Development (virgie.mouton@tmslaw.tsu.edu) and attend classes online.

3. Students who have been sick with COVID-19 symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19, or have been potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19 should attend classes online until they are cleared by their healthcare provider. The following is taken from the TSU & Coronavirus FAQs, http://www.tsu.edu/about/administration/marketing-and-communications/coronavirus/faqs.html:

   Those who have recently traveled internationally or believe they have been exposed to the virus and are experiencing influenza-like illness, with fever greater than 100.3, and symptoms, including cough, body aches, severe sore throat or runny nose, should seek medical attention, especially if symptoms worsen.

   Students should contact TSU Health Services (713-313-7173) and identify themselves as having flu-like symptoms to obtain further recommendations and guidance. Students should also consult with their regular health care provider or seek treatment at a local health center if they are overseas. Please call ahead to your health care provider to notify them of the reason for your visit.

   For additional information about COVID-19, including signs and symptoms, transmission and risk of exposure, and what to do if you are exhibiting symptoms, please refer to the resources section. The CDC’s website and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will also issue guidance for those planning to travel or who have recently returned.
4. While on campus and in classrooms, students should observe the rules for social distancing, social health etiquette, and general cleanliness.
   a. Students should practice hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and general cleanliness.
   b. Students should maintain at least 6 feet separation in all directions from other individuals.
   c. Face coverings (over the nose and mouth) are required for all students. Students without a face covering will not be allowed to enter the classroom. Students with an approved exemption and who notify their professor before the start of class may be allowed to wear a face shield instead of a face mask.
   d. Students should wash or disinfect their hands before each class and after any physical interaction with other persons in the classroom.
   e. Students should maintain classroom cleanliness. Students should create a clean classroom environment by putting away unnecessary personal items and cleaning their seating area intermittently.
   f. Students should not expect to enter the Law Building on a day other than the designated day for in-person attendance for an enrolled course. Entry will be permitted only if administration can determine that the maximum occupancy for COVID-19 social distance protocol has not been exceeded.
   g. Students who do not comply with the rules for social distancing, social health etiquette, and general cleanliness may be subject to discipline up to expulsion from law school.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
5. Students are required to attend classes consistent with the format of the enrolled course.
   a. Hybrid – instruction for courses in this format is delivered in person and simultaneously online. Enrolled students are divided into groups and required to attend weekly in-person classes on the weekday(s) predetermined by administration for the designated group. Students may only attend in-person classes on the administration-determined day to ensure that all enrolled students are guaranteed a physical seat for the class. Other class days for the week are to be attended online. Students who have COVID-related health and safety concerns in attending in-person classes must obtain a remote-instruction waiver from the Office of Student Affairs. The waiver can be requested for the entire semester or temporary, based upon the personal circumstance of the affected student.
   b. Online – instruction for courses in this format is delivered 100% online.
   c. For the 100% online course and the hybrid course online instruction component, both the American Bar Association and the Law School rules obligate the professor to
obtain assurance that the person who logs into the course online, participates in class, takes quizzes and exams, and engages in collaborative exercises, is the student enrolled in the course. Without being limited to the following methods of attendance verification, professors may require attendance to be contingent upon confirmation of identity via webcam or require webcams to remain on for the entire class period.
PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE & PROFESSIONALISM

Class Attendance:

Class attendance is required. As per Article III, §9 of the Student Rules of Matriculation, if you miss more than two (2) classes you may have your grade reduced up to two (2) letter grades, depending how far you exceed the limit. A dismissal from class for lack of proper preparation will count as a missed class. You are required to arrive at class on time and remain until dismissal. Those who arrive late, leave early, or who take restroom breaks during the class, disrupt the rest of us. It is, therefore, expected that you will arrive on time, remain until class is over and take restroom breaks before or after class. **The class attendance rule will be strictly enforced.**

Class Preparation:

Prior to each class you are required to prepare written briefs for each case included in the Reading assignment and to develop a complete understanding of the cases. All briefs must be in your own hand writing. No printed materials will be allowed in class. The class discussion will center on your understanding of the cases and the social and historical climate of the country at the time the case was decided. It is expected that you will completely understand the assigned cases and materials when you enter the classroom.

Class is not a place for me to explain the cases and the textual materials to you. The classroom is, instead, the place for us to take what you learned from the cases and the historical materials to the next level. That is, we do not ask the question “what?” It is not helpful for me to ask “what if” unless you already know “what.”

Class Participation:

The classroom experience is not designed to provide an opportunity for me to demonstrate the depth of my knowledge about the subject matter. In fact, the classroom experience is designed to provide for you, the student, an opportunity to demonstrate to me the depth of your knowledge base. I will pose a series of questions to you based on the reading assignment. You will be expected to correctly answer all questions posed by me. If you are unable to properly respond to my questions, it says to me that you are not adequately prepared for class. Any student not adequately prepared will immediately be excused from class and will be registered as not present. One point will also be deducted from your total points for class participation.
POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Student Rules:

It is the responsibility of each student to know the rules and regulations of Thurgood Marshall School of Law. You can access the Rules and Regulations Handbook on TMSL’s website, www.tsulaw.edu, and clicking on the “Students” tab, then “Student Affairs,” “Student Rules and Regulations,” and finally “Student Rules and Regulations 2018-2019.”

Computers and Cell Phones:

The use of laptops, tablets, cell phones, or any other internet access/electronic device during a class session is strictly prohibited. Any student violating this policy will receive a letter grade reduction.
# THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

## TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2020 – 2021

#### FALL SEMESTER 2020 (Modified 13-Week Schedule)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>Mon-Fri, August 3 – 7, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Day of Class</td>
<td>Monday, August 10, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to ADD/DROP</td>
<td>Wednesday, August 12, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day (NO CLASSES)</td>
<td>Monday, September 7, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purge of all unpaid course selections</td>
<td>Monday, September 14, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Term Examinations</td>
<td>Mon – Fri, October 5-9, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to Drop a Class with grade of “W”</td>
<td>Friday, October 30, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 4, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year Professors’ Grades due</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 4, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Period (NO CLASS)</td>
<td>Thurs- Sun, November 5-8, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examinations</td>
<td>Mon – Thu, Nov 9 – 19, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commencement Exercises</td>
<td>Saturday, November 21, 2020</td>
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</tbody>
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#### SPRING SEMESTER 2021

**TBA**