



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

MULTISTATE PERFORMANCE TESTING

LAW 990 SECTION 01

SPRING 2018

ROOM

THURSDAYS 8:00 – 9:50 A.M.

RONDA HARRISON

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THE INSTRUCTOR

NAME: Ronda L. Harrison, Asst. Dean for Academic Support and Bar Readiness

TELEPHONE: 713-313-1020

EMAIL: roharrison@tmslaw.tsu.edu

LOCATION: 241

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
(All other times by appointment)

NOTES FROM THE INSTRUCTOR:

It is my hope that you will take this course as seriously as you will your overall bar preparation. If you need extra help with this course or any area of your bar preparation, please make an appointment with my administrative assistant, Zel Burns in 214.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVE

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to help you develop the problem solving, legal analysis and basic writing skills necessary for you to maximize your score on the Multistate Performance Test (MPT) portion of your state Bar Exam. The MPT is developed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) and is administered by participating jurisdictions on the Tuesday before the last Wednesday in February and July of each year.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, the scholar should be able to:

- (1) sort detailed factual materials and separate relevant from irrelevant facts;
- (2) analyze statutory, case, and administrative materials for applicable principles of law;
- (3) apply the relevant law to the facts in a manner likely to resolve a client's problem;
- (4) identify and resolve ethical dilemmas when present;
- (5) communicate effectively in writing; and
- (6) complete a lawyering task within time constraints.

GRADING

Grading for this course is on a Pass-Fail basis. To pass the course you must earn a cumulative minimum total of 30 points out of an available 50 points. Scholars who do not earn sufficient points will receive additional classwork or a grade of incomplete. This class requires attendance, effort and participation. There will be no make-up assignments or extra-credit work offered in lieu of in-class assignments. You will take six MPTs over the span of the semester. The point allocation is as follows:

Diagnostic MPT	N/A
MPT #1	6 pts
MPT #2	6 pts
MPT #3	6 pts
MPT #4	6 pts
MPT #5	6 pts
Final Exam/MPT #6	10 pts
Scholar Assessment Meetings	10 pts
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TOTAL:	50 pts

All scholars must schedule a 1:1 scholar assessment meetings with me. Sign-up times will be posted on TWEN. The assessment meetings are worth 10 points. Scholars who do not schedule or fail to appear for the assessment meetings will receive a grade of zero.

Return of graded assignments: Scholars may expect to receive written performance feedback, on each test, in addition to a numeric score.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Any students needing accommodation should apply through the office of Assistant Dean Virgie Mouton (Room 223B).

PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE & PROFESSIONALISM

PARTICIPATION:

You must turn off all of your cell phones or electronic device during class. No side talk (amongst students) of any kind is permitted while the Professor is teaching or calling the class roll unless prior permission is sought and received from the Professor. You must not leave the class room before the end of the class lecture (except to the rest room) unless prior permission is sought and received from the professor. You are prohibited from surfing the internet with your lap top or any other electronic device during class unless prior authorization is sought and received from the Professor. A violation of any of the above rules would result in the violating student(s) being excused from class.

ATTENDANCE:

Section 9 of the Students Rules & Regulations provide the following:

Class attendance is required of all students. Excessive absence from classes may result in the following: (a) administrative withdrawal from the course; or (b) grade reduction of up to two letter grades in courses required to be taken in sequence (where a student may not be withdrawn from a class). Excessive absence is defined as any absence in excess of the permitted absence. (See below) "Absence" shall be defined as either a failure to attend class, or a failure to be present at the commencement of class."

You are allowed a maximum of 3 absences in this course without triggering a letter grade reduction for excessive absences.

If you are arriving after 8:10, you are considered absent for attendance purposes.

Once the allotted number of absences are exceeded, a student's grade may be reduced. To this affect, a list of each student's name and the number of absences is submitted to the Office of the Dean at the end of each semester. As such, a scale is applied in order to calculate the grade reduction so that the rule is implemented in a uniform manner.

See *Students' Rules of Matriculation* for details on absences and grade reductions. When you are absent from class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get notes or assignment information from a classmate. If your absence falls on the date of a scheduled in-class exercise or assignment, you will not have an opportunity to submit make-up work unless you have made arrangements with me in advance of your absence.

PROFESSIONALISM:

In keeping with the professional school environment, scholars should remember to respect their fellow classmates and the professor at all times.

Please refrain from excessive side conversations, web surfing or other distracting conduct during class.

Please turn off or set to silent all phones and hand held devices.

Please refrain from departing during class instruction. It is disruptive, and disrespectful to other scholars.

Please refrain from using personal computers in class for anything other than class materials.

Technology: Laptop use in my classroom is a revocable privilege. I will permit you to use laptop computers for class-related note taking and reference. During class it is inappropriate to use laptops for any other purpose (*e.g.*, to download music, play games, watch DVDs, access inappropriate web sites, to send e-mail messages, to access social media, etc.). In addition to any other sanction, I will rescind laptop use, individually or collectively, if the privilege is abused. **During class all phones and hand-held or computerized devices must be turned off or completely silenced.**

FALL SEMESTER 2017 (SIXTY NINE DAYS OF CLASSES)

Orientation Monday-Friday August 7-11, 2017

First Day of Class Monday August 14, 2017

Last Day to ADD/DROP Wednesday August 16, 2017

Labor Day (NO CLASSES) Monday September 4, 2017

Purge of all unpaid course selections Thursday September 14, 2017

Mid Term Examinations Mon – Fri October 9-13, 2017

VETERANS DAY (NO CLASSES) Friday NOVEMBER 10, 2017

Last Day of Classes Tuesday November 21, 2017

Last Day to Drop a Class Tuesday November 21, 2017

First Year Professors' Grades due Tuesday November 21, 2017

Reading Period (NO CLASS) Wednesday November 22, 2017

Thanksgiving Holiday Thurs – Fri November 23-24, 2017

Reading Period Sat-Sun November 25-26, 2017

Final Examinations Mon – Fri November 27-Dec. 8, 2017

University Commencement Saturday December 16, 2017

SPRING SEMESTER 2018 (SEVENTY DAYS OF CLASSES)

Law School Opens Tuesday January 2, 2018

First Day of Class Monday January 8, 2018

Last Day to ADD/DROP Wednesday January 10, 2018

M L K Holiday (No Classes) Monday January 15, 2018

Purge of all unpaid course selections Wednesday February 7, 2018

President's Day Holiday (No Classes) Monday February 19, 2018

Mid Term Examinations Mon – Fri March 5– 9, 2018

Spring Break Mon – Fri March 12 – 16, 2018

Good Friday (No Classes) Friday March 30, 2018

Last Day of Classes Wednesday April 25, 2018

Last Day to Drop a Class Wednesday April 25, 2018

First Year Professors' Grades due Wednesday April 25, 2018

Reading Period (**No Classes**) Thur. – Sun April 26 - 29, 2018

Final Examinations Mon- Fri April 30 – May 11, 2018

Hooding Ceremony Friday May 11, 2018

University Commencement Saturday May 12, 2018

Please note that the calendar events and /or dates are subject to change.

TMSLAW ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

May 2017



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Please reference the Thurgood Marshall School of Law [Student Rules and Regulations Handbook](#).

ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 Thur, Jan 11	Overview of the Multistate Performance Test MPT #1 – Memo
Week 2 Thur, Jan 18	Debrief and review MPT #1 ICE DAY
Week 3 Thur, Jan 25	Debrief and review MPT #1
Week 4 Thurs, Feb 1	MPT #2 – Memo
Week 5 Thurs, Feb 8	Debrief and review MPT #2
Week 6 Thurs, Feb 15	MPT #3 – Persuasive Brief
Week 7 Thurs, Feb 22	Debrief and review MPT #3
Week 8 Thurs, Mar 1	Review of Rewrite of Persuasive Brief and Intro to Persuasive Demand Letter
Week 9 Thurs, Mar 8	MPT #4 – Demand Letter
Week 10 Thurs, Mar 15	<i>No Class SPRING BREAK</i>
Week 11 Thurs, Mar 22	Scholar 1:1 assessments with instructor. Schedule an appointment via Lexis
Week 12 Thurs, Mar 29	MPT #5 – Demand Letter
Week 13 Thurs, Apr 5	Debrief and review MPT #5
Week 14 Thurs, Apr 12	<i>Into to Summary Judgment, Wills, Contracts</i>
Week 15 Thurs, Apr 19	MPT Final Review
Week 15 Thurs, Apr 26	No class: Reading Period
FINAL MPT May 4th 9:00 a.m.	MPT #6 FINAL EXAM