



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

**MULTISTATE PERFORMANCE TEST  
(MPT)**

LAW 990 SECTION 01

FALL 2019

ROOMS 106 & 107

THURSDAYS 8:30 – 10:10 A.M.

**RONDA HARRISON BENJAMIN**

**LISA DELATORRE**

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## **THE PROFESSORS**

**NAME:**        **Ronda L. Harrison Benjamin, Assistant Dean for Academic Success  
and Bar Readiness**

**TELEPHONE:** 713-313-1020

**EMAIL:**        ronda.harrison@tmslaw.tsu.edu

**LOCATION:**    241

**OFFICE HOURS:**    Monday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
                              Tuesday 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
                              Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
                              Thursday by appointment  
                              Friday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
                              (All other times by appointment)

**NAME:**        **Lisa DeLaTorre, Assistant Director for Academic Success  
and Bar Readiness**

**TELEPHONE:** 713-313-1145

**EMAIL:**        Lisa.DeLaTorre@tmslaw.tsu.edu

**LOCATION:**    221J

**OFFICE HOURS:**    Monday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
                              Tuesday 1 p.m – 4 p.m.  
                              Wednesday 1p.m. – 4 p.m.  
                              Thursday 1p.m. – 4 p.m.  
                              Friday 1p.m. – 3 p.m.  
                              (All other times by appointment)

### **NOTES FROM THE INSTRUCTOR:**

It is our 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 either of us by emailing. Although we do keep office hours, it is always best to make an appointment so we can plan to devote the entire block of time to our conversation.

**You will not need to purchase a textbook for this course. I ask that you bring a binder and 8 dividers to class with you each week. You will create your MPT binder for your bar study as the semester progresses.**



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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVE**

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 the 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. In Texas, this is administered along with Texas procedure and evidence on Day 1 of the Texas bar exam. If you are taking the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) you will have two MPTs to complete on Day 1 in most UBE jurisdictions.

## **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.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Any students needing accommodation should apply through the office of Assistant Dean Virgie Mouton (Room 223B). Your application and documentation will remain confidential. Your prompt application will allow the law school to accommodate you as appropriate, as soon as it has been made aware of your situation.

## GRADING

Grading for this course is based upon the rubric below. To pass the course you must earn a cumulative minimum total of 26 points out of an available 60 points. This class requires attendance, effort and participation. You will take a minimum of six MPTs over the span of the semester. The point allocation is as follows:

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
In-class assignments	15 pts
Scholar Assessment Meetings	5 pts (Credit is given for one meeting. However, you may meet with me as often as necessary.)

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TOTAL:	60 pts
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Grade	Cumulative Points
A	52-60
A-	47-51
B+	41-46
B	37-40
B-	34-36
C+	32-33
C	30-31
C-	28-29
D	26-27
F	25 and below

**All scholars must schedule a 1:1 scholar assessment meeting with me. Sign-up times will be posted on the class online portal. The assessment meeting is worth 5 points. Scholars who do not schedule or fail to appear for the assessment meeting will receive a grade of zero points for their meeting. You are also welcome to meet with me as often as you would like or need to without credit awarded.**

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

## PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

### PARTICIPATION:

**You must turn off or silence 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. This class has a NO LAPTOP policy unless you are writing an MPT or other in-class assignment. 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 arrive after 8:45 (without advance permission), you are considered absent for attendance purposes.**

Once the allotted number of absences are exceeded, a student's grade may be reduced. 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 in advance of your absence.



## TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

### PROFESSIONALISM & CLASS ETIQUETTE

#### PROFESSIONALISM:

1. **Mobile phones and other similar devices (e.g., smart watches) must be powered off or silenced during class times.** (No vibrations, alarms, text or message signals, or flashing lights).
2. Please do not eat breakfast, lunch or heavy snacks in the classroom during class time. Food and snacks may create an unwelcome smell and noise distraction during exams and lessons.
3. Please refrain from coming to class late or departing during class instruction. It is disruptive, and disrespectful to your instructor and classmates.
4. **Permissible laptop usage is limited to writing and submitting MPTs and other in-class assignments.**

#### CLASS ETIQUETTE:

When e-mailing your professor, be appropriate and professional in your communication. **Begin the e-mail with a greeting and address me by title and surname. Use a subject line that clearly denotes the purpose/topic of your message. Close the message with your full name and contact information.** Do not "reply" to a message sent from your instructor with an unrelated topic without first changing the subject line. **I reserve the right to ignore non-compliant messages.**

**Technology: Laptop use in my classroom is a revocable privilege.** This class has a NO LAPTOP policy unless you are writing an MPT or other in-class assignment. During class it is inappropriate to use laptops for any other purpose (e.g., to access social media, to download music, play games, watch DVDs, access inappropriate web sites, to send e-mail messages, etc.). **During class all phones and hand-held or computerized devices must be turned off or completely silenced.**

Any class-related communication we send through email, we will send **to your TSU student email account**. You are responsible for checking your TSU student email account frequently. You should not expect the professors to email your personal email account.



# ACADEMIC CALENDAR

## FALL SEMESTER 2019 (71 DAYS OF CLASSES)

ORIENTATION	MON – FRI	AUGUST 12-16, 2019
FIRST DAY OF CLASS	MONDAY	AUGUST 19, 2019
LAST DAY TO ADD/DROP	WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 21, 2019
PURGE OF ALL UNPAID COURSE SELECTIONS	WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 18, 2019
MID TERM EXAMINATIONS	MON – FRI	OCTOBER 14-18, 2019
LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS	FRIDAY	NOVEMBER 8, 2019
LAST DAY OF CLASSES	TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 26, 2019
FIRST YEAR PROFESSORS' GRADES DUE	TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 26, 2019
READING PERIOD (No CLASSES)	WED –	NOVEMBER 27, 2019
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	THURS-FRI	NOVEMBER 28-29, 2019
READING PERIOD (No CLASSES)	SAT-SUN –	NOV 30-DEC 1, 2019
FINAL EXAMINATIONS	MON –FRI	DECEMBER 2-13, 2019
COMMENCEMENT	SATURDAY	DECEMBER 14, 2019

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CALENDAR EVENTS AND /OR DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

UPDATED AUGUST 2019

## POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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

## ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 Thurs., Aug. 22	Overview of the Multistate Performance Test
Week 2 Thurs., Aug. 29	MPT #1 – Memo
Week 3 Thurs., Sept. 5	Debrief and review MPT #1 In-Class Activity
Week 4 Thurs., Sept. 12	MPT #2 –
Week 5 Thurs., Sept. 19	Debrief and review MPT #2 In-Class Activity
Week 6 Thurs., Sept. 26	MPT #3 –
Week 7 Thurs., Oct. 3	Debrief and review MPT #3 In-Class Activity
Week 8 Thurs., Oct. 10	Scholar 1:1 assessments with instructor. Schedule an appointment. In-Class Activity
Week 9 Thurs., Oct. 17	MPT #4 –
Week 10 Thurs., Oct. 24	Debrief and review MPT #4 In-Class Activity
Week 11 Thurs., Oct. 31	MPT #5 –
Week 12 Thurs., Nov. 7	Debrief and review MPT #5 In-Class Activity
Week 13 Thurs., Nov. 18	TBD/In-Class Activity
Week 14 Thurs., Nov. 25	TBD/In-Class Activity
Nov. 27-Dec.1	Reading period, Thanksgiving Holiday
<b>FINAL EXAM MPT</b>	<b>MPT #6, date TBA</b>

The dates of these assignments and in-class activities may change. The professors will endeavor to give as much notice as possible for any schedule change. Schedule changes will most likely be announced by sending an email to your **TSU STUDENT EMAIL**. It is your responsibility to check your student email frequently, and to be responsive to the information you receive there.