



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

# COMMUNICATIONS LAW

LAW 714 – SECTION 1

FALL 2019

PROFESSOR

**PROFESSOR ELSA RANSOM**

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## THE PROFESSOR

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**LOCATION:** Room 231

**OFFICE HOURS:** MWF 2-4 PM  
(Appointments can be arranged at other times by contracting Prof. Ransom's office at 713-313-1047, or [elsa.ransom@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:elsa.ransom@tmslaw.tsu.edu))

## **COURSE BOOKS & MATERIAL**

Required Text: Marc A. Franklin, David A. Anderson and Lyrissa B. Lidsky, Amy Gajda.  
*Media Law: Cases and Materials*. 9th ed., Foundation Press (2016).

Supplemental reading including cases to be assigned by the instructor.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVE**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

[Insert Here]

### **OBJECTIVE:**

To assist the student in developing an understanding of the fundamental principles and rapidly evolving landscape of Media Law. Course coverage extends from the development of the First Amendment through current and future legal issues posed by advancements in communications technologies. This course will entail the study and analysis of cases, statutes, regulations and other relevant materials used to resolve various legal issues regarding the role and function of mass media---and now social media—in the United States. At the conclusion of this course, students should have gained (1) knowledge of how the law addresses such issues and (2) critical thinking skills aimed toward emerging legal issues yet to be resolved.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

[Insert Here]

## **GRADING**

Writing Assignments, 15% collectively; Mid-Semester Examination, 20%; Final Examination, 65%. Excessive absences may impact grade in accordance with the law school's Rules of Matriculation.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require special accommodations, please fill out the necessary forms with the Dean's office. Your application and documentation will remain confidential. Your prompt attention will allow the law school to accommodate you, as soon as it has been made aware of your situation.

Please see:

<http://www.tsulaw.edu/academics/18SuAccommodationsInformationWeb.pdf>

## **PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE & PROFESSIONALISM**

### **PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE**

- a. Class attendance in accordance with the law school's Rules of Matriculation. Students are expected to be punctual and to remain in class throughout the period.
- b. Class preparation, i.e., completion of specified reading and other assignments prior to the class meeting at which they are due.
- c. Class participation in discussion of assigned reading and oral problems-solving exercises.
- d. Writing assignments. Specific requirements regarding content and format TBA.
- d. Mid-Semester examination.
- e. Final examination, date and time TBA.



**TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW**  
**\*\*\*\*\*TENTATIVE\*\*\*\*\*ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2019–2020**

**FALL SEMESTER ACCELERATED (TURBO) COURSE**

First Day of Accelerated Summer	Monday	August 5, 2019
Last Day to Add/Drop Classes	Monday	August 5, 2019
Last Day of Classes	Friday	August 16, 2019

**FALL SEMESTER 2019 (SEVENTY-ONE DAYS OF CLASSES)**

Orientation	Monday–Friday	August 12–16, 2019
<b>First Day of Class</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>August 19, 2019</b>
Last Day to ADD/DROP	Wednesday	August 21, 2019
<b>Labor Day (NO CLASSES)</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>September 2, 2019</b>
<i>Purge of all unpaid course selections</i>	Wednesday	September 18, 2019
<b>Mid Term Examinations</b>	<b>Monday–Friday</b>	<b>October 14–18, 2019</b>
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
<b>Reading Period (NO CLASS)</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>November 27, 2019</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	<b>Thursday–Friday</b>	<b>November 28–29, 2019</b>
<b>Reading Period (NO CLASS)</b>	<b>Saturday–Sunday</b>	<b>November 30–December 1, 2019</b>
Final Examinations	Monday–Friday	December 2–December 13, 2019
Commencement Exercises	Saturday	December 14, 2019

**SPRING SEMESTER 2020 (SEVENTY DAYS OF CLASSES)**

School Opens	Thursday	January 2, 2020
First Day of Class	Monday	January 13, 2020
Last Day to ADD/DROP	Wednesday	January 15, 2020
<b>M L K Holiday (No Classes)</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 20, 2020</b>
<i>Purge of all unpaid course selections</i>	Friday	February 7, 2020
Mid Term Examinations	Monday–Friday	March 9–13, 2020
Spring Break	Monday–Friday	March 16–20, 2020
<b>Spring Break (University Closed)</b>	<b>Wednesday–Friday</b>	<b>March 18–20, 2020</b>
Last Day to Drop a Class	Thursday	April 9, 2020
<b>Good Friday (No Classes)</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 10, 2020</b>
Last Day of Classes	Tuesday	April 28, 2020
First Year Professors' Grades due	Tuesday	April 28, 2020
<b>Reading Period (No Classes)</b>	<b>Wednesday–Sunday</b>	<b>April 29–May 3, 2020</b>
Final Examinations	Monday–Friday	May 4–May 15, 2020
Hooding Ceremony	Friday	May 15, 2020
Commencement Exercises	Saturday	May 16, 2020

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

Updated July 2019



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## **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

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

## READING ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Casebook Chapter(s)</u>
8-19	Course Overview/The Foundations of Media Law/First Amendment Principles	1-2
8-26	Different Rules for Some Media	3
9-2 thru 9-09	Defamation Via Media (Holiday 9-3)	4
9-16 thru 9-23	Privacy Invasion Via Media	5
09-30	Liability for Emotional, Economic and Physical Harm	6
10-7 thru 10-14	Newsgathering Torts <b>Mid-Semester Exam 14-18</b>	8
10-21	Subpoenas and Searches	9
10-28 thru 11-4	Access to Information	10
11-11	Access to Judicial Proceedings	11

11-11 Recent/Current Developments in Media Law

Handout Materials

**Holiday 11-28, 11-29**

11-25 Review

**Final Class Day 11-26**

**Important Dates:**

**Mid-semester Examination: Monday, October 14, 2019**

**Final Examination: TBA**