# Table of Contents

- The Professor .................................................................................................................................. 3
- Course Books & Material ............................................................................................................... 4
- Course Description & Objective ..................................................................................................... 5
- Student Learning Outcomes ............................................................................................................ 6
- Grading ........................................................................................................................................... 7
- Accommodations ............................................................................................................................ 8
- Participation, Attendance & Professionalism ................................................................................. 9
- Academic Calendar ...................................................................................................................... 10
- Policies & Procedures ................................................................................................................... 10
- Reading Assignments .................................................................................................................... 12
THE PROFESSOR

NAME: Elsa Ransom

TELEPHONE: 713-313-1047

EMAIL: elsa.ransom@tmslaw.tsu.edu

LOCATION: Room 231

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 2-4 PM
(Appointments can be arranged at other times by contacting Prof. Ransom’s office at 713-313-1047, or elsa.ransom@tmslaw.tsu.edu)
COURSE BOOKS & MATERIAL


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
- First Day of Class: Monday, August 19, 2019
- Last Day to ADD/DROP: Wednesday, August 21, 2019
- Labor Day (NO CLASSES): Monday, September 2, 2019
- Purge of all unpaid course selections: Wednesday, September 18, 2019
- Mid Term Examinations: Monday–Friday, October 14–18, 2019
- Last Day to Drop a Class: Friday, November 8, 2019
- Last Day of Classes: Tuesday, November 6, 2019
- First Year Professors’ Grades due: Tuesday, November 6, 2019
- Reading Period (NO CLASS): Wednesday, November 27, 2019
- Thanksgiving Holiday: Thursday–Friday, November 28–29, 2019
- Reading Period (NO CLASS): Saturday–Sunday, November 30–December 1, 2019
- 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
- M L K Holiday (No Classes): Monday, January 20, 2020
- Purge of all unpaid course selections: Friday, February 7, 2020
- Mid Term Examinations: Monday–Friday, March 9–13, 2020
- Spring Break: Monday–Friday, March 16–20, 2020
- Spring Break (University Closed): Wednesday–Friday, March 18–20, 2020
- Last Day to Drop a Class: Thursday, April 9, 2020
- Good Friday (No Classes): Friday, April 10, 2020
- Last Day of Classes: Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- First Year Professors’ Grades due: Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- Reading Period (NO CLASSES): Wednesday–Sunday, April 29–May 3, 2020
- 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
POLICIES & PROCEDURES

# Reading Assignments

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