



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

**LAW 809**  
**BAR ESSAY WRITING**  
Section 2  
Fall 2019

**PROFESSOR REEM HAIKAL**

**ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND BAR READINESS**

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## COURSE BOOKS & MATERIAL

There is no textbook for this course. However, you are *required* to enroll in our class page on TSU Blackboard following this link: <https://texsu.blackboard.com>. Make sure you visit the class page *and* print the weekly handouts and lecture materials to use in class for fill-in-the-blanks.

## INSTRUCTOR\* CONTACT INFORMATION

**Ronda Harrison Benjamin**, Assistant Dean, Academic Success and Bar Readiness

**TELEPHONE:** 713-313-1020

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**Reem Haikal**, Assistant Director, Academic Success and Bar Preparation

**TELEPHONE:** 713-313-1394

**EMAIL:** Reem.Haikal@tmslaw.tsu.edu

**OFFICE LOCATION:** Room 109

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT OFFICE HOURS\*\*:**

	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
Ronda Harrison <b>Room 241</b> (713) 313-1366 Ronda.Harrison@tmslaw.tsu.edu	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	by appointment	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Reem Haikal <b>Room 109</b> (713) 313-1394 Reem.Haikal@tmslaw.tsu.edu	12:00 p.m. - – 2:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.			11:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

\*This course is taught by the Academic Success Department faculty.

\*\* Office hours are subject to change.

### **NOTE FROM THE DEAN:**

This course is designed to help you develop the problem solving and analytical writing skills necessary for you to maximize your scores on the essay portion of the Texas Bar Examination. Formats presented in this course may be inconsistent with UBE jurisdictions.

### **BELOW ARE GENERAL ESSAY WRITING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TEXAS BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS**

- Carefully read the question and the “call of the question,” (what the question asks you to do.)
- **Pay attention to the facts presented without assuming additional facts.**
- Include more than a mere conclusion when asked to explain the answer fully.
- **Respond to the “call of the question”** (what the question asks you to do) and stay on track.
- **Practice writing in complete sentences and composing paragraphs.**
- **Organize your responses, and answer subparts, if any, in the order asked.**
- Strive for clarity and good communication in writing.
- **Avoid lengthy or unnecessary discussion of general or extraneous matters.**

Texas examinees should read and be familiar with the Texas statutes and rules pertaining to the Texas essay and procedure and evidence exam-tested subjects. This is recommended regardless whether you have access to commercially-produced outlines or review materials.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will teach you how to answer the types of essay questions that will appear on the bar exam. It will show you what the rules frequently tested by the examiners and the essential components of a high scoring answer. You will gain experience writing answers to actual bar essay questions and you will receive personalized feedback on your essays with instruction on how to improve your writing.

This course is not intended as a substitute for a commercial bar review course. This course is designed for students preparing to sit for the Texas Bar Examination. Students should take this course during the semester immediately preceding law school graduation and bar study. Specific emphasis will be given to the frequently tested areas of the Texas Bar Exam.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

The main objective of this course is to facilitate the development of competency required to pass the essay portion of the Texas Bar Exam.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After completing this course with a passing grade, each student should be able to:

1. understand the format of the Texas Essay Exam and the legal rules most frequently tested on the exam;
2. construct essay answer templates by combining Texas statutes with previously tested subject matter; and
3. competently answer simulated exam questions under test conditions.

## GRADING& CLASS FORMAT

### *Quizzes and Final Examination*

There will be Seven (7) in-class essays, valued at 30 points each, designed to reinforce your understanding of the subject matter. Additionally, there will be a final examination containing 6 essay questions valued at 30 points for each essay.

### *Assessment*

There will be 300 maximum points available for the course:

- 7 In-class essays valued at 30 points each for a total of 210 points.
- Final Examination that consists of 6 essay questions for a total of 190 points.

### *Grade scale*

Grade	Cumulative Points
A	270- 300
B	240-270
C	210-240
D	0-180

The table above is only an estimation of final grade calculation.



Please note that **late essay submissions will not be allowed**. Typed essays to be submitted on Blackboard page or other approved programs within the due date. NO EXCEPTIONS.



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## 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/student\\_affairs/docs/2011-2012AccommodationsHandbook.pdf](http://www.tsulaw.edu/student_affairs/docs/2011-2012AccommodationsHandbook.pdf)



## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. **Mobile and cellular phones must be powered off** 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, gum 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 essays.
5. 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.**

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE (*Section 9 of TMSL Students Rules and Regulations*)**

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.

### **PERMITTED NUMBER OF ABSENCES**

Effective spring semester 2010, the rule governing the permitted number of student absences per course per semester shall be determined by multiplying the number Two (2) by the course credit hours and then subtracting the number one (1) from the result. Based on this formula, the following number of absences shall be adopted by faculty for all courses taught at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law effective spring semester, 2010

Type of Course	Permitted Number of Absences
Six semester hour course	11
Five semester hour course	9
Four semester hour course	7
Three semester hour course	5
Two semester hour course	3

This rule does not relieve the student of the responsibility to drop any course the student decides not to complete after registering for the course. (See Article III, Section 1, A (3) and Article III, Section 4, A (1).

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Participation in class discussions is required. Participation, for the purposes of the lectures, means having read the assigned materials ***before*** the scheduled class meeting. If you are concerned that you do not understand the concepts, please schedule an appointment during my office hours prior to the class meeting so that you are fully prepared.

# ACADEMIC CALENDAR



## 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 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>Mon – Fri</b>	<b>October 14-18, 2019</b>
Last Day of Classes	Monday	November 25, 2019
Last Day to Drop a Class	Monday	November 25, 2019
First Year Professors' Grades due	Monday	November 25, 2019
<b>Reading Period (NO CLASS)</b>	<b>Tue- Wed</b>	<b>November 26-27, 2019</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	<b>Thurs – Fri</b>	<b>November 28-29, 2019</b>
Reading Period (NO CLASS)	Sat- Sun	November 30 –Dec 1, 2019
Final Examinations	Monday - Friday	December 2 -Dec. 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	Mon – Fri	March 9-13, 2020
Spring Break	Mon – Fri	March 16 – 20, 2020
<b>Spring Break (University Closed)</b>	<b>Wed-Fri</b>	<b>March 18- 20, 2020</b>
<b>Good Friday (No Classes)</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 10, 2020</b>
Last Day of Classes	Tuesday	April 28, 2020
Last Day to Drop a Class	Tuesday	April 28, 2020
First Year Professors' Grades due	Tuesday	April 28, 2020
<b>Reading Period (No Classes)</b>	<b>Wed – Sun</b>	<b>April 29 - May 3, 2020</b>
Final Examinations	Mon- Fri	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 April 2019

<b>Class period</b>	<b>In Class Assignment</b>	<b>Assignment to be completed before next class</b>
Week 1 <b>August 20</b>	Introduction to the course  IRAC/ CRAC essay formatting	Review Community Property/ Intestacy
Week 2 <b>August 27</b>	Community Property and Intestacy Lecture	Review Community Property/ Intestacy
Week 3 <b>September 3</b>	Community Property and Intestacy Essay  Review Essay	Review Wills
Week 4 <b>September 10</b>	Wills Lecture	Review Wills
Week 5 <b>September 17</b>	Wills Essay	Review Partnerships
Week 6 <b>September 24</b>	Partnerships Lecture	Review Partnerships
Week 7 <b>October 1</b>	Partnerships Essay	Review Corporations
Week 8 <b>October 8</b>	Corporations Lecture	Review Corporations
Week 9 <b>October 15</b>	Corporations Essay	Review Secured Transactions

Week 10 <b>October 22</b>	Secured Transactions Lecture	Review Secured Transactions
Week 11 <b>October 29</b>	Secured Transactions Essay	Review Commercial Paper
Week 12 <b>November 5</b>	Commercial Paper Lecture	Review Commercial Paper
Week 13 <b>November 12</b>	Commercial Paper Essay	Review Real Property
Week 14 <b>November 19</b>	Real Property Lecture and Essay	Review Real Property
Week 15 <b>November 26</b>	No Class- Reading Period	
Finals	Final Examination (6 Essay Questions)	