

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

SUMMER 2023 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Advanced Legal Writing, Law 807, Sec. 1 (2 hours)

This course will provide practice in writing legal memoranda and briefs. Students will have the opportunity to refine their legal research and analytical skills as well as their writing skills. The goal of the course is to take students beyond basic competence to excel in legal writing.

Civil Externship Trial Practice, Law 932, Sec. 2 (2 Hours) and Civil Externship, Law 908, Sec. 1 (4 Hours)

The Civil Externship has two components—the classroom lecture component and the employment placement component. This externship is designed to introduce students to civil law practice. In the class component of the externship, students will walk through the anatomy of a civil lawsuit and simulate client interviewing, motion practice and filing, deposition and interrogatory drafting, following pre-trial procedures, picking a jury, and following a lawsuit from its inception to the beginning of a jury trial. In the placement component of the course will allow the student to observe and participate in the activities described above in a legal environment. These activities may include writing legal briefs, drafting motions, interviewing clients, and conducting legal arguments in court. The student is required to work at the placement site twenty (20) hours per week during the semester under the supervision of an attorney. This course may only be taken one time.

Civil Trial Practice, Law 932, Sec. 1 (Bankruptcy) (2 hours)

This course is designed to provide instruction to upper-level students in the substantive area of Bankruptcy. Students will develop a working knowledge of the United States Bankruptcy Code and refine their knowledge of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Criminal Externship Trial Practice, Law 902, Sec. 1 (2 Hours) and the Criminal Externship, Law 907, Sec. 1 (4 hours)

This externship also has two components—the classroom lecture component and the employment placement component. The Criminal Externship is designed to introduce students to criminal law practice utilizing the rules of Criminal Procedure. The classroom component will introduce the student to the practical application of these rules from the arrest to disposition of a case. The student will experience and see arrest warrants, indictments and complaints, tangible evidence, participate in simulated pre-trial arguments, hearings and negotiation pleas. The placement component will permit the student to be trained in the art of advocacy. The student is required to work at the placement site twenty (20) hours per week during the semester. The student should be exposed to extensive criminal litigation and may actually perform voir

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dire, opening statements, cross-examination, direct examination, or closing statements in a trial. A clean criminal record is required to participate in this externship. This class may only be taken one time.

Death Penalty Seminar, Law 804, Sec. 2 (2 hours)

This course studies the death penalty in the United States including the history of capital punishment; arguments supporting and opposing capital punishment, constitutional issues under the 8th and 14th Amendments, exclusion of jurors, use of psychiatric experts in capital trials, state post-conviction remedies, the scope of federal habeas review, constitutional challenges to the imposition of the death sentence of those deserving death, and the recently expanded federal death penalty.

Employment Discrimination, Law 759, Sec. 1 (3 hours)

The course is an introductory employment discrimination law course. The course will cover at will employment and Title VII discrimination (national origin, race, color, religion, sex). It will also cover topics such as pregnancy discrimination, sexual orientation discrimination, age discrimination, and disability discrimination.

Entertainment Law, Law 791, Sec. 1 (3 hours)

This course will examine the various legal issues that arise in entertainment contract law. Student will have the opportunity to engage in interviewing, negotiations and drafting exercises.

Financial Accounting For Lawyers, Law 895, Sec. 1 (3 hours)

Financial accounting for lawyers is an introductory course designed to provide law students with a fundamental understanding of basic financial accounting principles, collection and measurement of accounting information, preparation and interpretation of the basic financial statements—such as the income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statements, statement of changes in owners' equity—and the use of these accounting information in making decisions in every day law practice, regardless of the area of legal specialization.

Independent Research I/II LAW 802/803(3/3 Hours)

Third-year students may elect to earn three hours of credit for independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. The scope and subject matter of the research project will be determined by the professor supervising the student. The course may only be taken one time. Registration is by application and permission only. Students must submit an approved application and outline at registration. The form is available in the Office of Student Services.

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Mock Trial, Law 828, Sec. 1 (2 hours)

With a balanced focus on legal research and writing, coupled with detailed oral advocacy skill development, this course helps students improve their research and writing skills while also preparing them for competitive Moot Court Competitions. As practice, students draft Amicus briefs for local non-profit organizations. Upon successful completion of this course, students will earn 2 hours of Experiential Education credit.

Seminar: Business Planning LAW 871 (2 Hours)

This course is designed to expose students to the advising of small business enterprises. An understanding of the various planning and counseling techniques is the primary objective of the course. As a first step, the course will outline the various types of business enterprises and present the student with general considerations for choosing between a corporation and a partnership. These considerations include business, financial, tax, and other factors. Further, the tax factors are given in-depth treatment.

Second, the course will consider the issues of enterprise valuation, allocation of managerial control, design of the capital structure, and the tax incidents of a proposed corporation within the context of a business problem.

Third, the course will focus upon the business planning associated with the continuing enterprise. The issues in this area include issuance of new securities, stock dividend distributions, revaluation of assets, reduction of capital to create surplus, along with the attendant tax aspects of the continuing enterprise.

Finally, the course will consider the corporate and tax aspects incidental to the dissolution of a corporation. This problem will explore the various methods by which a corporation may be dissolved, the rights of creditors, the recognition and non-recognition of income, and the tax incidents to the shareholders of the liquidated corporation.

Seminar: Emerging Issues in Technology Law and Legal Ethics, Law 804, Sec. 1 (2 hours)

This course is designed to provide instruction in the areas of existing and developing technology and legal ethics. This seminar will be taught more broadly than its previous antecedent—which focused primarily on the use of technology in lawyering and accompanying ethical conundrums faced by today’s lawyers. This class will incorporate discussion on the various aspects of existing and developing technology (biotechnology, bitcoin, social media, etc.), as well as gaps in the law and public policy. At the conclusion of the course, students are expected to draft a

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well-researched law review quality paper, twenty pages or more, discussing an issue of interest in the area of modern technology, its societal impacts, and potential legal and policy remedies.

Seminar in Taxation, Law 880, Sec. 1 (2 Hours)

This course is an in-depth study of current topics in the federal taxation system. Emphasis will be placed on recent legislative, administrative, or course developments. A research paper is required. This class satisfies the upper-level writing requirement.