



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

**LAW 809**  
**BAR ESSAY WRITING**  
Section 1  
Fall 2021

**PROFESSOR REEM HAIKAL**

**ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND BAR READINESS**

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**“Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution. It represents the wise choice of many alternatives. Choice, *not chance*, determines your destiny.” Aristotle**

## The INSTRUCTOR

**NAME:** Reem Haikal

**TELEPHONE:** 713-313-1394

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

**OFFICE LOCATION:** Room 109

Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.		10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.		

**(Other times are always available by appointment)**

### **MY TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:**

I earned my J.D., *Summa cum laude*, from Thurgood Marshall School of Law where I was elected President of my Class. My objective as an educator is to motivate my students to develop their own learning interests and critical thinking—to establish a learner-centered environment in the classroom. Therefore, I strive to prepare handouts and lectures considering the connection between the students’ own knowledge, learning abilities, the subject matter, and the Bar Exam. Through guiding and coaching, I also help nurture the students’ interests in the most challenging subjects. I also believe in giving meaningful feedback to students. Meaningful feedback should be timely and consistent; building on the same themes. It should be positive in order to motivate the students.

Your success is my success; we are one team and I am always here to help you.

### ***Please note:***

1. It is your responsibility to check our class page on **Blackboard** for new course contents and assignments. Print the weekly handouts and lecture materials to use in class for fill-in-the-blanks.
2. Check your email daily because I send emails via Blackboard.
3. Notify IT Department at TSU if you encounter any problems with Blackboard.



# THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

## COVID-19 INFORMATION SHEET

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### HEALTH AND SAFETY ON CAMPUS

1. The University does not require COVID-19 vaccination as a condition for attending school. As a protective measure, students are encouraged to get vaccinated. The St. Luke's vaccination clinic, located on campus in the Nabrit Science Building, is open and accessible to the entire University community, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. There is no cost for the vaccination.
2. Students are expected to continuously self-screen for the symptoms of COVID-19. If you have symptoms and are not fully vaccinated, you should call the Student Health Center at (713) 313- 7173. Please remember to exercise caution and be courteous of your fellow students.
3. Students who experience a medical emergency on campus should call (713) 313-7000. If off campus, call 911. Please inform the dispatch operator if you are experiencing shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, coughing, or have a fever.
4. Students who are unable to attend classes for health reasons, including those relating to COVID-19, should immediately contact the Associate Dean of Student Services, Amy Ratra (miamy.ratra@tsu.edu ), for further guidance.
5. Students who contract the COVID-19 virus must report the information to the Associate Dean of Student Services, Amy Ratra, and the Student Accessibility Services Office (SASO), by phone at 713-313-4210 or by email at disabilityservices@tsu.edu.
6. Students who contract the COVID-19 virus will be required to quarantine under the advice of Student Accessibility Services Office (SASO). Such students are required to submit Release of Care documentation from a licensed health care professional to SASO and notify the Associate Dean of Student Services, Amy Ratra, before they return to the law school.
7. While on campus and in classrooms, students are encouraged to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to the health and safety of the entire TSU community.
  - a. Students should practice hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and general cleanliness.
  - b. Face coverings (over the nose and mouth) are not required as per the guidelines from the State of Texas. However, students are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings (over the nose and mouth) while in the law school building.
  - c. Students should wash or disinfect their hands before each class and after physical interaction with other persons in the classroom.
  - d. Students should maintain classroom cleanliness. Students should create a clean classroom environment by putting away unnecessary personal items and cleaning their seating area intermittently.
  - e. Students who do not conduct themselves on campus in a manner conducive to the health and safety of those with whom they come in contact may be subject to discipline up to expulsion from law school.

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## ATTENDANCE POLICY

8. Law school classes will be fully in-person this fall. The law school attendance policy will be strictly enforced.
9. Students who contract the COVID-19 virus will be barred from attending in-person classes until submitting Release of Care documentation from a licensed health care professional to Student Accessibility Services Office (SASO). Such students will be required to study and keep up with the prescribed readings.
10. Students that are excused from in-person class attendance because they contracted the COVID-19 virus should designate a student in each of their classes to make audio recordings of the lectures. Professors are required to allow such recordings to be made. Furthermore, professors are required to meet with such students to answer questions about the materials covered during their COVID-19-related absence.

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## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

11.	COVID-19	TESTING
Location:	H&PE	109
Hours of Operation:	No appointments are necessary. Tuesday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	
Results will be available within 24 hours if the test is taken by 11:30 a.m.		

12. The St. Luke's vaccination clinic is open and accessible to all University personnel and community, Monday – Friday, 9 am – 7 pm in the Nabrit Science Building.

## 13. STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

- a. Student Health Services is open 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday by appointment only.
- b. A nurse is available at (713) 313-7173, Monday – Friday, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. to schedule appointments.
- c. Appointments will be scheduled virtually and in-person, as needed.
- d. If you are currently enrolled and need a copy of your immunization record go to <https://tsu.medicatconnect.com>.
- e. If you are off campus but in the local area and need assistance contact the Harris County Health Department COVID-19 hotline: [www.ReadyHarris.org](http://www.ReadyHarris.org). If you don't have the internet, call (832) 927-7575 or Houston Health Department COVID-19 Call Center: (832) -393-4220.

## 14. UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER

- a. The University Counseling Center (UCC) is providing convenient Telemental Health Services to all students.
- b. Students may call 713-313-7800 to request an appointment. If someone does not answer, please leave your T-Number, name, and a contact number. Students may also complete this

form to request an appointment, and someone will contact them during business hours:  
[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ViJL72KUK0Su4urH7Z-1ZFNJ2YNoWsVPstLk4r8W\\_X1UOUk2SUxMRVoyVEdQTVkzV09YRVBLNU5OTy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ViJL72KUK0Su4urH7Z-1ZFNJ2YNoWsVPstLk4r8W_X1UOUk2SUxMRVoyVEdQTVkzV09YRVBLNU5OTy4u).

- c. Students may receive a call from a blocked or private number, please answer, as it may be your counselor trying to contact you.
- d. If a student experiences a crisis outside of regular business hours, the student can call 833-848-1765.
- e. Other resources for support outside of the UCC include:
  - i. Crisis text line – Text Steve to 741-741.
  - ii. National Suicide Hotline - 800-273-TALK (8255).

## **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 Uniform Bar Exam. Students should take this course during the semester immediately preceding law school graduation and bar study.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

The main objective of this course is to facilitate the development of competency required to pass the essay portion of the Uniform 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 Uniform Bar Exam and the legal rules most frequently tested on the exam;
2. construct essay answer templates; *and*
3. competently answer simulated exam questions under test conditions.

**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.**

**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>



## GRADING & CLASS FORMAT

### *Assessment*

There will be 200 maximum points available for the course:

- **6** in-class essays valued at 20 points each for a ***total of 120 points***.
- **3** essay questions Final Exam valued at ***80 points***.

### *Grade scale*

Grade	Cumulative Points
A	180- 200
B	160-179
C	140-159
D	0-139

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

### *Remember:*

**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.

## TESTING FORMAT *and* REQUIREMENTS

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser for online exams. Watch this video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser:

<https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml>

### Download Instructions

*Download and install LockDown Browser using this link:*

<https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=147113771>

### Once Installed

- Start LockDown Browser
- Log into Blackboard Learn
- Navigate to the test

Note: You won't be able to access tests with a standard web browser. If this is tried, an error message will indicate that the test requires the use of LockDown Browser. Simply start LockDown Browser and navigate back to the exam to continue.

### Guidelines

When taking an online test, follow these guidelines:

- Turn off all mobile devices, phones, etc. and don't have them within reach
- LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted

If you experience technical difficulties during the exam, please state what has happened into the webcam and note the time at which you experienced a problem. The statements made into the webcam will be recorded and flagged. If you are able to do so, please continue with the exam. If the exam shuts down, your computer system crashes, or your internet connection breaks, please try to restart or resume the exam. If you are unable to continue the exam, please call the 24-Hour Blackboard Support Helpline at [844-789-9978](tel:844-789-9978). If you are having problems accessing the Blackboard site, please contact the OIT Department at [713.313.4357](tel:713.313.4357). Also, contact TMSL Office of Students Affairs which will review your submission and any other available documentation and, if approved, arrangements will be made for you to make-up the exam.



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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 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).

***Thus for this class, you are only permitted 3 hours of absences.***

### **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.



## THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2021 – 2022

### FALL SEMESTER 2021

#### FALL SEMESTER 2021 (SEVENTY DAYS OF CLASSES)

Orientation	Monday-Friday	August 9-13, 2021
<b>First Day of Class</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>August 16, 2021</b>
Last Day to ADD/DROP	Wednesday	August 18, 2021
<b>Labor Day (NO CLASSES)</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>September 6, 2021</b>
<i>Purge of all unpaid course selections</i>	Wednesday	September 15, 2021
<b>Mid Term Examinations</b>	<b>Mon – Fri</b>	<b>October 11-15, 2021</b>
Last Day to Drop a Class	Friday	November 5, 2021
<b>Last Day of Classes</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>November 23, 2021</b>
First Year Professors' Grades due	Tuesday	November 23, 2021
Reading Period	Wed	November 24, 2021
Thanksgiving Holiday	Thurs – Fri	November 25-26, 2021
Reading Period	Sat- Sun	November 27-28, 2021
<b>Final Examinations</b>	<b>Monday - Friday</b>	<b>November 29-Dec. 10, 2021</b>
Commencement Exercises	Saturday	December 11, 2021

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

## TITLE IX INFORMATION

Texas Southern University is committed to fostering a safe learning environment. As professor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment in class. Texas Southern University and Federal Regulations (Title IX) policy prohibit discrimination based on sex and this includes sexual harassment, sexual violence and misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Texas Southern University understands that these incidents can undermine a student's academic success, so Texas Southern University encourages students who have experienced sexual conduct prohibited by university policy to report these incidents when they happen to the University's Title IX Coordinator or University Confidential Resource so that the student can get the help they may need.

It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in one-to-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I also have a mandatory responsibility to notify the University's Title IX Coordinator when I become aware of incidents of prohibited conduct that violate the university's Title IX policy.

Students may speak confidentially to the University Counseling Center. Please feel free to visit their website [www.tsu.edu/ucc](http://www.tsu.edu/ucc) for more information about their services. Also, students may speak with the University's Title IX Coordinator by calling 713.313.1371 or emailing [titleix@tsu.edu](mailto:titleix@tsu.edu).

<b>Class period</b>	<b>In Class Assignment</b>	<b>Assignment to be completed before next class</b>
Week 1 <b>August 17</b>	Introduction to the course	Review IRAC/ CRAC essay formatting
Week 2 <b>August 24</b>	IRAC/ CRAC essay formatting/ UBE General Information	Review Wills and Intestacy
Week 3 <b>August 31</b>	Wills and Intestacy Lecture	Review Wills and Intestacy
Week 4 <b>September 7</b>	Wills and Intestacy Essay	Review Partnerships
Week 5 <b>September 14</b>	Partnerships Lecture	Review Partnerships
Week 6 <b>September 21</b>	Partnerships Essay	Review Corporations
Week 7 <b>September 28</b>	Corporations Lecture	Review Corporations
Week 8 <b>October 5</b>	Corporations Essay	Review Family Law
Week 9 <b>October 12</b>	Family Law Lecture	Review Family Law
Week 10 <b>October 19</b>	Family Law Essay	Review Secured Transactions



Week 11 <b>October 26</b>	Secured Transactions Lecture	Review Secured Transactions
Week 12 <b>November 2</b>	Secured Transactions Essay	Review Real Property
Week 13 <b>November 9</b>	Real Property Lecture	Review Real Property
Week 14 <b>November 16</b>	Real Property Essay	
Week 15 <b>November 23</b>	Review	
Finals (Dates and times TBD)	Final Exam (3 Essay Questions)	

**Good Luck!!**