



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

LAW 802/SEC. 1

SPRING 2023

PROFESSOR EMEKA DURUIGBO

Course Schedule: Friday at 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

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THE PROFESSOR

NAME: Emeka Duruigbo

TELEPHONE: 713-313-1135

EMAIL: emeka.duruigbo@tmslaw.tsu.edu

LOCATION: Room-221D

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
12: 30 pm to 2:30 pm.

(You may also make an appointment)

NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR:

Please feel free to walk in whenever I am available in my office.



SUCCESS TIPS

1. Bring your mind to class.
2. Be in class without fail – if possible.
3. Take accurate and complete notes in class.
4. Read all material before the assigned dates or soon thereafter.
5. Participate in class discussions.
6. Be ready to take responsibility for your failure and hope not to blame anyone or anything.

SUCCESS TIP # 1: “Blessed is the one who reads”
Rev. 1:3 NIV

SUCCESS TIP # 2: “If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.”
Eccl. 10:10 NIV

SUCCESS TIP # 3: *Qui sentit commodum sentire debet et onus et contra*

COURSE BOOKS & MATERIAL

The main text for this course is **1.) Scholarly Writing for Law Students: Seminar Papers, Law Review Notes and Law Review Competition Papers by Elizabeth Fajans & Mary R. Falk, 5th Edition (West Academic Publishing).** (“Text”).

There are several other books that you may find useful. I will not assign readings from these books, but some students may find some of these materials to be useful. I will be happy to give you a list and you might just take a look at them and see what you think. I may also place some books on reserve from time to time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVE

DESCRIPTION:

The course aims to sharpen students' writing skills so they can conceive, commence and complete papers worthy of publication in a law journal or comparable medium. The ability to produce a quality paper involves more than actual writing but includes the use of imagination, critical thinking, information discovery, analytical or persuasive reasoning, organizational ability, and developing creative solutions to pressing societal problems. Thus, the course will guide the students in the entire process and not focus narrowly on grammatical improvements. The course also aims to strengthen the students' oral advocacy skills by providing opportunities for presentations of the paper before a knowledgeable and critical audience of their peers. The course proceeds on the conviction that the ability to present clear and convincing arguments in a logically sound manner, in written form, is critical to success as a lawyer.

OBJECTIVE:

The course is designed to assist students master the rudiments of writing a winning law review note, seminar paper or writing sample for clerkships and other jobs in the legal profession or related fields. It is expected that at the end of the course, students would have made substantial progress in mastering what is arguably the lawyer's most important skill: writing.

“One of the single defining traits that all successful attorneys share is excellent writing skills. Don't be fooled by the flashy procedurals that are ever popular on television, the vast majority of lawyers spend far more time writing than they do in oral arguments. Successful lawyers must be able to prepare effective, clear, and well-reasoned legal documents. If you want to take action now that will help you become a better lawyer in the future, focus on sharpening your writing skills. An attorney who can tell a compelling story that weaves in all of the relevant facts and arguments is an attorney that will be successful for a long time.”

Ramzy Ladah, What Makes a Good Lawyer? Common Traits of Successful Attorneys Today, at <https://www.alu.edu/alublog/what-makes-a-good-lawyer/> (accessed August 9, 2021)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students are expected to demonstrate a number of skills that indicate mastery of the basics of academic legal writing. The following expectations from students are consistent with this goal.

1. Learn how to identify relevant topics that avoids completing a redundant paper.
2. Understand the elements of an effective academic paper.
3. Identify a research question or questions for their paper.
4. Develop a thesis for their paper.
5. Learn how to proceed with research methodology.
6. Create an effective introduction to their paper.
7. Craft creative and effective solutions to and make recommendations for addressing the problems identified in their research.
8. Document and attribute their sources in standard format.
9. Develop a writing style that is accessible to a cross-section of the society.
10. Confidently present a paper before a well-informed audience.

GRADING

There will no formal interim or final examination. Your course grade will be determined by the final version of your paper which will be weighted by 70%, in-class paper presentation by 20% and class participation by 10%.

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

PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE & PROFESSIONALISM

PARTICIPATION

The class will meet once every week. Each class session will be interactive with students discussing various components of their paper as they progress and commenting on the work of their classmates. Class participation is a factor in determining the final grade. Strong participation and performance in class may help your grade in marginal cases, including an adjustment up one grade increment.

ATTENDANCE

It is expected that all students attend all classes. Students who miss class sessions without reasonable justification should expect that their grade may be adversely affected in a significant way.

PROFESSIONALISM

Plagiarism is totally unacceptable in the academic world and particularly in this course. Plagiarism not only steals from another person's efforts, it also robs the plagiarists of the opportunity to develop their own ideas and express their thoughts. Any case of plagiarism, in whole or in part, will automatically earn the student involved an F in the course. This result is without prejudice to any sanction that may be imposed by other organs of law school government.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

SPRING SEMESTER 2023 (SEVENTY DAYS OF CLASSES)

School Opens	Monday	January 2, 2023
First Day of Class	Monday	January 9, 2023
Last Day to ADD/DROP	Wednesday	January 11, 2023
M L K Holiday (No Classes)	Monday	January 16, 2023
<i>Purge of all unpaid course selections</i>	Monday	February 2, 2023
Mid Term Examinations	Mon – Fri	March 6-10, 2023
Spring Break	Mon – Fri	March 13 – 17, 2023
Good Friday (No Classes)	Friday	April 7, 2023
Last Day to Drop a Class	Monday	April 10, 2023
Last Day of Classes	Wednesday	April 26, 2023
First Year Professors' Grades Due	Wednesday	April 26, 2023
Reading Period (No Classes)	Thur-Sun	April 27 – April 30, 2023
Final Examinations	Mon – Fri	May 1 – May 12, 2023
Hooding Ceremony	Friday	May 12, 2023
Commencement Exercises	Saturday	May 13, 2023

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

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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The class syllabus is only tentative. *Readings listed in the syllabus are subject to change during the semester.* I will distribute any revised syllabi during the semester.

IR READING

Read Chapter	Before This Date	Anticipated Class Coverage
0-0	1.13	Welcome; Introduction to Independent Research
1	1.20	Introduction: Scholarly Writing in Law School
2	1.27	Choosing a Topic Assignment: Provide a Working Topic (in class)
3	2.3	Developing a Thesis Assignment: Submit a Draft Thesis (by next class)
4	2.10	Conducting Research Assignment: Discuss planned research methods (in class)
5	2.17	The Writing Process Assignment: Provide a Draft Outline (by next class)
6	2.24	Revising and Polishing Assignment: Provide a Draft Introduction (by next class)
7	3.3	Citation and Attribution Assignment: Provide a 3-5 page Draft of Paper (by next class)
8	3.10	Grammar Assignment: Provide a 7-10 page Draft of Paper (by next class)
0-0	3.13 – 3.17	SPRING BREAK
9	3.24	Writing Style Assignment: Review Presentation Schedule (in class)
0-0	3.31	Presentations 1 Up to 4 students; 20 minutes per student
0-0	4.7	GOOD FRIDAY
0-0	4.14	Presentations 2 Up to 4 students; 20 minutes per student



THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

COVID-19 INFORMATION SHEET

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.

IR READING

- a. Students should wash or disinfect their hands before each class and after physical interaction with other persons in the classroom.
 - b. Students should maintain classroom cleanliness. Students should create a clean classroom environment by putting away unnecessary personal items and cleaning their seating area intermittently.
 - c. 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.

IR READING

- 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. 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.
- 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).

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 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.