

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW
Spring 2020

Course: Rules and Reasoning
Course Number: 615 331

Instructor: PROFESSOR CASSANDRA JONES HAVARD
Office: Room 1109
Office Hours: W: 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Days/Time: M/W - 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Location: Room 607

Course Description:

This upper-level course is to assist students in developing the skills necessary for success in law school, on the bar exam, and in practice. Students will work on (1) learning how to read and analyze legal concepts, (2) synthesizing complicated materials, (3) communicating effectively both orally and in writing, (4) developing the essential skills for the mastery of their law school courses, and (5) improving their writing skills. Professors teaching this course will use a doctrinal subject of their choosing (we are using Sales and Leases) and teach students the mastery of skills involved in identifying legal issues, understanding and using rules of law, and using and analyzing facts. Students will have multiple opportunities for practice and feedback and will engage in exercises designed to help students master the skill of legal analysis using a doctrinal subject as a framework for doing so.

Course Materials:

Required Texts:

Problems and Materials on the Sale and Lease of Goods
Douglas J. Whaley, Stephen M. McJohn, 8th Edition
ISBN: 978-1543813135

Uniform Commercial Code Official Text and Comments
ISBN 9781454875383

You may use any edition of a commercial law statutory supplement in this course. If you do not know whether a particular supplement is acceptable, I'll be happy to check it out for you.

You must bring the textbook and statutory supplement to every class

Recommended Texts or Other Materials

For students looking to test your ability to apply the legal concepts about which you will read and we will discuss in class, I recommend James Brook, *Sales and Leases: Examples & Explanations* (5th ed. 2009), and

Scott J. Burnham, *The Glannon Guide to Sales: Learning Sales Through Multiple Choice Questions and Analysis* (2007). There are also some good Article 2 tutorials available on-line from <http://www.cali.org>.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this class, students will be proficient in their ability to:

1. Critically read cases and statutes;
2. Brief cases, take notes, and synthesize course material;
3. Identify and articulate employment law doctrine the policy underlying it;
4. Apply employment law doctrine in novel factual settings;
5. Communicate legal analysis orally and in writing.

Grading:

30% - Assignments

15% - Midterm

55% - Final Exam

Class participation may result in a 1/3 grade increase or decrease to be determined in my discretion (i.e. excellent class participation can raise your grade from a B+ to an A- while poor class participation can lower your grade from a B+ to a B).

Course Expectations:

I expect you to display professionalism in this class. This includes arriving on time, attending all classes, being prepared for class, and behaving respectfully. If you are not prepared for a class, please let me know by sending an email before class that day.

American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools establish guidelines for the amount of work students should expect to complete for each credit earned. Students should expect approximately one hour of classroom instruction and two hours of out-of-class work each week for each credit earned in a class, or an equivalent amount of work for other academic activities, such as simulations, externships, clinical supervision, co-curricular activities, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

You are expected to complete all reading assignments before class and to participate consistently in class discussion to demonstrate that you have read and reflected on the issues raised in the assignment.

Attendance:

Class attendance is a primary obligation of each student whose right to continued enrollment in the course and to take the examination is conditioned upon a record of attendance satisfactory to the professor. A student who exceeds the maximum allowed absences (generally 20% of class sessions) as illustrated below may be compelled to withdraw from the course or may be barred from sitting for the final exam. Students who are forced to withdraw for exceeding the allowed absences may receive a grade of FA (failure due to excessive absence). This policy is consistent with American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools.

Regular Semester Hours		
Credit Hours	Meetings Per Week	
	1	2
2	2 absences	5 absences
3	2 absences	5 absences
4	--	5 absences

Course Website:

This course has a TWEN page that links to this syllabus, announcements, the class assignments, and other class materials. You are responsible for self-enrolling in the TWEN page and for checking it regularly for course information.

Computers:

Students may use laptop computers for class related purposes. I reserve the right to change this policy.

Class Cancellation:

If the instructor must cancel a class, notices will be sent to students via email and posted on the classroom door. If there is inclement weather, students should visit the University of Baltimore web site or call the University's Snow Closing Line at (410) 837-4201. If the University is open, students should presume that classes are running on the normal schedule.

Academic Integrity:

Students are obligated to refrain from acts that they know or, under the circumstances, have reason to know will impair the academic integrity of the University and/or School of Law. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, misuse of materials, inappropriate communication about exams, use of unauthorized materials and technology, misrepresentation of any academic matter, including attendance, and impeding the Honor Code process. The School of Law Honor Code and information about the process is available at http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/policiesandprocedures/honor_code/.

Title IX Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination Policy:

The University of Baltimore’s Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination policy is compliant with Federal laws prohibiting discrimination. Title IX requires that faculty, student employees and staff members report to the university any known, learned or rumored incidents of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking on the basis of sex, dating/intimate partner violence or sexual exploitation and/or related experiences or incidents. Policies and procedures related to Title IX and UB’s nondiscrimination policies can be found at: <http://www.ubalt.edu/titleix>.

Disability Policy:

If you are a student with a documented disability who requires an academic accommodation, please contact Karyn Schulz, Director, Center of Educational Access, Office of Disability and Access Services, at 410-837-4141 or kschulz@ubalt.edu.

READING ASSIGNMENTS – posted on TWEN