Secured transactions syllabus

**University of Baltimore School of Law**

**SPRING 2020**

**Course**: Secured Transactions

LAW 770 - Section 412

**Instructor**: Lisa D. Sparks

**Days/Time:** Thursdays, 5:45-7:35 pm

**Course Description**:

This course will study Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, including the creation, priority and enforcement of security interests in personal property. Certain provisions of the United States Bankruptcy Code will be included.

**Course Materials:**

1. Michie’s *Annotated Code of Maryland: Commercial Law Article* (Volume II)You may utilize an electronic version of the Maryland UCC as long as it has annotations (Westlaw or Lexis).

2. Warkentine & Grossman, *Secured Transactions,* A Context & Practice Casebook *ISBN:* 978-1-61163-488-4

3. Optional: Examples &Explanations – Secured Transactions 6th ed; Color Me Secured (Amazon)

4. Supplemental materials as distributed and assigned via TWEN – please join the site for this course starting 5/1

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will synthesize multiple sections of the UCC to solve problems.
2. Students will translate factual scenarios and business problems into legal issues.
3. Students will apply the UCC to hypotheticals.
4. Students will simplify complex processes and analyses.
5. Students will assess issues and arguments presented in hypothetical problems.

**Grades:**

Midterm/Drafting Assignment(s) 20%

Final Exam 60%

Attendance & Participation 20% (first absence is free, second absence is -5%)

**Course Expectations:**

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, particularly in the analysis of assigned and in-class problems.

**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 – 2 classes for this course) 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.

**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. It will primarily be used to provide alternate assignments for classes canceled due to weather closings.

**Computers:**

Students may use laptop computers for class related purposes.

**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. In the event of a snow closing, I will attempt to put make-up work or a podcast lecture on the TWEN site so that we can keep on schedule and avoid make-up days. Please be sure to check TWEN when classes are canceled and follow any instructions posted. It is your obligation to affirmatively check.

**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 the School of Law. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating; plagiarism; misuse of library materials; use of another’s book or study materials without consent; unapproved multiple submissions; material misrepresentation of one’s academic history or standing; misrepresentation of any academic matter; intentionally giving another student false or inaccurate information about class requirements; inappropriate discussion of exams; and misrepresenting or falsifying class attendance reports. The School of Law Honor Code and information about the process is available at <https://law.ubalt.edu/academics/policiesandprocedures/honor_code/index.cfm>.

**Course Evaluations**

It is a requirement of this course that students complete a course evaluation. The evaluation will be available later in the semester and is entirely anonymous. Faculty members will not have access to the feedback provided on course evaluations until after all grades are submitted.

**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 accommodation for academic programs, exams, or access to the University’s facilities, please contact the Office of Academic Affairs, at [ublawacadaff@ubalt.edu](mailto:ublawacadaff@ubalt.edu) or

(410) 837-4468.

**Assignments:**

The topics and code sections listed below are subject to shifting based on how quickly the class is able to master certain concepts and are generally presented on a weekly basis (in the summer, one class is the equivalent of one week).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Topic** | **Text Chap.** | **Code Sections** |  |
| 1  1/16 | The Nature of Debt & Basics of Bankruptcy | 1-3 |  |  |
| 2  1/23 | Scope of Article 9 | 4 | 9-102, 9-103, 9-109, 9-110 |  |
| 3  1/30 | Security Interests | 5 | 9-203, 9-204 |  |
| 4  2/6 | Attachment & Security Agreements | Appendices A & B & C | 9-104, 9-105, 9-106, 9-108, 9-201, 9-203, 9-204, 9-207, 9-208; Sample Security Agreement on TWEN |  |
| 5  2/13 | Default & Repossession | 6 | 9-601, 9-604, 9-607, 9-608, 9-609, 9-610, 9-611, 9-612, 9-613, 9-614, 9-615, 9-616, 9-617, 9-620, 9-621, 9-622, 9-623, 9-624, 9-625, 9-626, 9-627 |  |
| 6  2/20 | Default & Repossession continued |  |  |  |
| 7  2/27 | **MIDTERM at class time** | | |  |
| 8  3/5 | Perfection | 7-8 | 9-301, 9-308, 9-309, 9-310, 9-311, 9-312, 9-313, 9-314, 9-316 |  |
| 9  3/12 | Perfection continued |  |  |  |
| 10  3/26 | Filing |  | 9-500’s |  |
| 11  4/2 | Basic Priorities | 9-10 | 9-103, 9-317, 9-322, 9-323 |  |
| 12  4/9 | Special Priorities & PMSI’s | 11 | 9-324, 9-327, 9-330, 9-331, 9-333, 9-334 |  |
| 13  4/16 | Disposition of Collateral | Appendix D | 9-315, 9-319, 9-320, 9-321 |  |
| 14  4/23 | Review |  |  |  |
| TBD | **Final Exam (5/4-13)** | | | |