

Syllabus Spring 2020 Class 770/311

LAW 770 SECURED TRANSACTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW SPRING TERM 2020

Course: Secured Transactions
Law Course No. 770
Section No. 311

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Days/Time: Mondays 1030 – 1220

Location: Nominally Rm. 1002, but check the Law School class schedule for the room assignment.

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.

Prerequisite:

First-year required courses. [Open Enrollment].

Course Materials (REQUIRED):

1. Michie's Annotated Code of Maryland: Commercial Law Article – Uniform Commercial Code volume II (Repl. Vol. 2013) ISBN 9780769853369, available through the bookstore, but probably not readily available from virtually any other source. **N.B.: This book is expensive, and some students decide to download and print Maryland's UCC ART 9 from internet sources. It is your decision, BUT not having the book is not recommended, as it might result in your having difficulty following along as sections are discussed and interwoven during classroom lectures and, of even more importance, in your glossing the statutory text with cross references to related parts of the statute. The final decision, though, is up to you.**

2. Examples & Explanations, Secured Transactions (6th ed.). This book is highly recommended, and it is available from many sources. ISBN: 9781454817680. This book is relatively inexpensive as law books go, and it is written to simplify and help you remember and apply the basic UCC rules you will be learning in class. Virtually every student taking this course has praised the E&E book as among the best helpers they have ever been assigned in law school. (It is possible you might be able to get a substantial price cut if the Bookstore will “bundle” the Michie statutory volume and the E&E book. At least one could ask.)

Student Learning Outcomes:

Provide a working knowledge of the laws governing securing funding with collateral, their application in real-settings, as well as familiarity with one of the 800-pound gorillas in this field, i.e., Federal Bankruptcy law.

Grades:

One final examination, multiple choice and T/F, of 20 or so questions, graded normatively, i.e., curved according to relative performance. There will be some essay question(s) as well. Exceptional classroom participation may be counted towards the final grade. Excessive absences may affect final grade or bar taking the final examination.

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.

Course Expectations:

American Bar Association Accreditation Standards 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 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.

Assignments/Participation:

Because of the interwoven nature of the U.C.C. in general and Article 9 in particular, it is impractical to give you a specific list of assignments. In order to make sure that students are following the web-like nature of Article 9, I do not move on to one concept until I am satisfied that the majority have understood the preceding one. You will be told at the end of class what you should study for the next one. All students will be expected to have

closely read the assignments in the Text and to be prepared to present solutions if called upon in class.

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

Computers:

Students may use laptop computers or tablets in class, but NO cell phones. Students may be monitored from time to time to make sure they are using computers for class work, rather than watching movies, etc.

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 page or call the University at (410) 837-4201. If the University is not closed, 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 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. Reference to School of Law Honor Code .

Title IX Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy:

The University of Baltimore's Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct policies are 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 ublawaacadaff@ubalt.edu or (410) 837-4468.

ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments will be in the UCC Statutory Text, with the E&E book there to help you with the statutory provisions of UCC Article 9. The timing of assignments will be as announced in class, because timing may vary depending on how quickly your class appears to be absorbing the material. From time to time, various study aids may be handed out in class. These will not be posted online, because I expect you to come to class, where you can pick them up. There is NO specific First Assignment, as it is designed for me to introduce you to basic UCC concepts and how to deal with the Code as an interwoven set of laws.