



FALL 2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number: 167-001
Course Title: Bankruptcy
Credit Hours: 3
Grading Mode: LETTER GRADE
Meeting Time(s): TUE/ THUR 6:05-7:30P
Meeting Mode: ON CAMPUS
Exam Time(s): TAKE HOME
Exam Mode: TAKE HOME
Prerequisite(s): N/A
Corequisite(s): N/A
Instructor(s):
CRAIG YOUNG

Contact Info:
cyoung2@gmu.edu

I am available to meet before or after classes or to schedule a telephone or Zoom conference with individual students upon request. You may request a conference by email or text. Students also may send questions or comments by email or text at any time. I will always try to respond within 24 hours. I reserve the right to share with the entire class any individual questions or discussions I deem to be helpful to everyone. (I will not identify the person who asks the question or makes the comment.)

Reading(s) & Supplement(s):

- *Bankruptcy Law – Principles, Policies, and Practice* (“*Bankruptcy Law*”) Charles J. Tabb, Ralph Brubaker. 2021 Lexis-Nexis. (5th Edition). (ISBN 978-1-5310-1362-2; e-ISBN 978-1-5310-1363-9). Any Supplement I receive from the authors will be provided to you.
- U.S. Bankruptcy Code (“Bankruptcy Code” or “BC”)
- Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (“Bankruptcy Rules” or “BR”) (dated 2024 or later). (The Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules can be accessed online).
- Beware – many sites purporting to provide copies of the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rules are not up to date). You will also need Internet access to the [local Bankruptcy Court in Alexandria, VA](#).

Course Overview

This course covers the basics of Bankruptcy Law regarding consumers and entities including liquidation under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, reorganization for consumers under chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code and reorganization for entities under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will:

- 1) Understand the philosophy of bankruptcy as applied to individuals and entities facing serious financial hardships;
- 2) Understand the relationship between bankruptcy law and other laws related to financial transactions and issues such as real estate law or the Uniform Commercial Code;
- 3) Be able to identify when and why an individual or an entity should consider using bankruptcy as a solution to financial hardships;
- 4) Know how to use bankruptcy to resolve financial hardships encountered by individuals and entities; and
- 5) Know how to use the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules to protect the rights of creditors.

Grading Policies

The exam for this course is take-home with open book.

Any resources may be used during the taking of the exam EXCEPT: NO other students, NO friends, NO colleagues and NO other persons may be consulted. Students may take the exam at any time during the exam period (December 2 through December 15, 2025) provided (i) each student must receive the exam from and return the exam and answer to the Records Office; and (ii) the exam must be returned before the end of the standard exam period (December 15). The exam will be two fact patterns with two or three questions for each fact pattern.

In accordance with Academic Regulation 4-4.1, excuses and requests for permission not to sit for an examination when scheduled must be presented, with appropriate documentation, to the Assistant Dean, Student Academic Affairs. Except in emergencies, such requests should be presented no later than two weeks before the date the exam period begins.

Classroom Policies

Attendance:

Per AR 3-1.4, "maintenance of matriculation requires regular class preparation, participation and attendance, registration in the course of study required for the student's program (full-time or part-time), successive registration for each fall and spring term of each academic year until study is completed, and compliance with all other relevant requirements."

Regular and punctual attendance is required to earn academic credit. Attendance requirements for academic credit will follow the policies set forth in Academic Regulation 4-1. Should a student anticipate missing a substantial number of class sessions (e.g. because of a serious illness), the student should immediately contact the Assistant Dean, Student Academic Affairs.

Absences:

Per AR 4-1.1, "if a student is absent for any reason for more than 20 percent of the sessions of a course, the student is not eligible for credit in that course. A student who is not present for at least 75 percent of a session of the course is absent from that session."

I will keep attendance during the course and will mark a student as absent if not seen visually.

Expectations & Course Structure:

- Students are expected to read assigned Text materials in advance of each class and are encouraged to participate during class by way of discussion and questions.
- This is an advanced course and not taught using the Socratic Method. Students will not be called on specifically but will be encouraged to volunteer their participation.
- Additional materials will be shared during the course. Students are encouraged to use their MasonLive email accounts for communication and may request email communications using other email addresses.

Use of Technology & AI:

Strict Use Policy: The use of generative AI tools is not permitted for any coursework in this course. Unauthorized use will be treated as a violation of academic standards.

Recordings are prohibited. Pursuant to Academic Regulation 4-2.2, no portion of a class session or an examination may be preserved by means of a recording device such as an audio recording device or camera. Any exceptions to this policy must be expressly permitted in writing by the professor.

There is no expectation for this course to be recorded by the Professor or the Law School.

Course Schedule & Assignments

This Syllabus is subject to change. Students will be advised timely of any changes.

Class 1 – August 19, 2025: Introduction. What is Bankruptcy?

- Read: Bankruptcy Law Chap. 1, pgs. 1-77; You may SKIP: Vitale v. Hotel California, pg. 25; Illi, Inc. v. Margolis, pg. 29; U.S. v. McDermott, pg. 36; Grupo Mexicano v. Alliance Bond Fund, Inc., pg. 48; (You may skip Introduction to Bankruptcy, pg. 56, but you are encouraged to read the history of bankruptcy, pg. 59, at some point); read Henson v. Santander Consumer USA Inc., 582 U.S. ___, 137 S. Ct 1718 (2017) (Text pg. 8); review Bankruptcy Code §§ 101, 109.

Class 2 – August 21, 2025: Commencement of Bankruptcy

- Read: Bankruptcy Law Chap. 2 pgs. 79-94, skim 161-170 (involuntary bankruptcy); You may Skip In Re SGL Carbon Corporation, pg. 94-105; read In re: National Rifle Association et al., Case No. 21-30085 (HDH), Order dated May 11, 2021 (TWEN); review Bankruptcy Code §§ 101, 109, 301, 303, 521, 522; 28 U.S.C. §157; 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408, 1409; Bankruptcy Rules 1002, 1004, 1007, 4003.

Class 3 – August 26, 2025: “Good Faith” and the “Means Test”

- Read: Bankruptcy Law Chap. 2, pgs. 109 -161 (see Supplement pgs. 3-22); review Bankruptcy Code §§ 305, 707, 1112, 1208, 1307; Bankruptcy Rule 1017.

Class 4 – August 28, 2025: Property of the Bankruptcy Estate

- Read: Bankruptcy Law Chap. 3, pgs. 171-199; Bankruptcy Code §§ 541, 542, 543.

Class 5 – September 2, 2025: The Automatic Stay

- Read: Bankruptcy Law Chap. 4, pgs. 201-237; Bankruptcy Code §§ 362; Bankruptcy Rule 4001.

Classes 6, 7 & 8 – September 4, 9 & 11: Unsecured Claims

- Read: Bankruptcy Law Chap. 5, pgs. 239-300; Bankruptcy Code §§ 101(5), 726, 727, 501, 502, 503, 507; 28 U.S.C. 959(a) and (b). You may SKIP Alabama Surface Mining Comm. v. N.P. Mining Co. (In re: N.P. Mining Co.), text pg. 286.

Classes 9 & 10 – September 16 & 18: Secured Claims

- Read: Bankruptcy Law chap. 6, pgs. 301-350; You may SKIP Hartford Underwriters Ins. Co. v. Union Planters Bank, pg. 345; review Bankruptcy Code §§ 506(a), (c), (d), 362(c), (d), 363, 554, 521, 101, 102(2).

Class 11 – September 23: Relief from Stay and Adequate Protection

- Read: Bankruptcy Law Chap. 7, pgs. 351-386; Bankruptcy Code §§ 361, 362.

Classes 12, 13 & 14 – September 25 & 30 and October 2: Executory Contracts & Unexpired Leases

- Read: Bankruptcy Law pgs. 387-470; Bankruptcy Code §365; SKIP In re Enron Corp., pg. 401, In re Klein Sleep Products, Inc., pg. 436. For Class 12 read through pg. 397; for Class 13 read through 427; finish chapter for Class 14.

Classes 15, 16 & 17 – October 7, 14 & 16: Avoiding Powers:

- Read: Bankruptcy Law pgs. 471-596; Bankruptcy Code §§ 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 550.

October 9 – Fall Break. No Classes

Class 18 – October 21: Discharge.

- Read: Bankruptcy Law pgs. 597-668; Bankruptcy Code §§ 101(5), 101(12), 523, 524, 525, 552, 727, 1141, 1328.

Classes 19 & 20 – October 23 & 28: Exemptions.

- Read: Bankruptcy Law pgs. 669-716; Bankruptcy Code § 522, 727.
- For Class 19 read to pg. 684; for Class 20, finish the chapter.

November 4 – Election Day. No Classes.

Classes 21, 22 & 23 – October 30, November 6 & 11: Chapter 11 Reorganization

- Read: Bankruptcy Law pgs. 717-852; Bankruptcy Code § 105(a), 363, 364, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1128, 1141; Bankruptcy Rule 9019. Class 21 read to pg. __; Class 22 read to pg. __; Class 23 the rest of the chapter.

Class 24 – November 13: Jurisdiction and Procedure

- Read Bankruptcy Law Chap. 13, pgs. 853-970.

Class 25 – November 18: Review

November 20 – Last Class.

November 25 – Thanksgiving Recess

December 2 – 15 – Examination Period.

[Student Resources](#)

[Antonin Scalia Law School Academic Regulations](#)

[GMU Common Course Policies Addendum](#)

[Mason Square Services](#)

[Mason Square Police](#)

Van Metre Hall, Room 110

Emergency - Dial 911

Escort Services - 703-993-8070

Dispatch – 703-993-2810

[Student Support and Advocacy Center \(SSAC\)](#)

Mason Square Sexual Assault Services:

Van Metre Hall, Room 222D

703-993-8186

Notice of Mandatory Reporting of Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If a student wishes to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703 -380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703 -993-2380. Students may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703 -993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

[Mason Square Clinic](#)

Van Metre Hall, Room B102

703-991-2831

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)

[Student Disability Services](#)

[Student Conduct](#)

[University Life](#)