



FALL 2026 BANKRUPTCY LAW COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number: 167-001
Course Title: Bankruptcy Law
Credit Hours: 3
Grading Mode: Letter Grade
Meeting Time(s): Mon/Wed 6:05-7:30 P.M.
Meeting Mode: On Campus
Exam Time(s): During Exam Period
Exam Mode: Take Home
Prerequisite(s): N/A
Corequisite(s): N/A
Instructor(s): Craig B. Young
Contact Info: cyoung2@gmu.edu

Office Hours: Professor Young is available to meet before or after classes or to schedule a telephone or Zoom conference with individual students upon request. Students may request a conference by email or text. Students also may send questions or comments by email or text at any time. Professor Young will try to respond within 24 hours. Professor Young reserves the right to share with the entire class any questions or discussions he deems to be helpful to everyone. (If a question or comment is shared with the entire class, Professor Young will not identify the person who asks the question or makes the comment.)

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 applied to individuals and entities with 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;
- 5) Know how to use the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules to protect the rights of creditors.

Reading(s) & Supplement(s):

- *Bankruptcy Law – Principles, Policies, and Practice* (“*Bankruptcy Law*”) Charles J. Tabb, Ralph Brubaker. 2021 Lexis-Nexis. (5th Ed.). (ISBN 978-1-5310-1362-2; e-ISBN 978-1-5310-1363-9). Supplements from the authors will be provided for free.
- U.S. Bankruptcy Code (“Bankruptcy Code” or “BC”) (dated 2025 or later).
- Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (“Bankruptcy Rules” or “BR”) (dated 2025 or later).
- The Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules can be accessed online. Beware – many sites claim to provide copies of the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rules that are not up to date.
- You will also need Internet access to the local [Bankruptcy Court](#)

Grading Policies

The grade for this course is based on a take-home exam. The exam is "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 examination period (December 1 through December 14, 2026) provided (i) each student must receive the exam from and return the exam and answer to the Records Office; and (ii) the exam answer must be returned before the end of the examination period (Close of Business on December 14, 2026). Failure to return the exam answer on time may result in a grade of incomplete. 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 must be presented no later than two weeks before the date the exam period begins.

Classroom Policies

Attendance:

Per Academic Regulation 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 Academic Regulation 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.” Professor Young will keep attendance during the course and will mark a student absent if not seen visually.

Expectations & Course Structure:

- Students are expected to read assigned 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 & Artificial Intelligence:

Strict Use Policy: The use of generative AI tools is not permitted 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. Dates for each class will be added when available.

Class 1 August 17, 2026 – Introduction. What is Bankruptcy?

Read: Bankruptcy Law Chap. 1, pgs. 1-77; You may SKIP: *Vitale v. Hotel California*, pg. 25; *III, 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 19, 2026 – 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 24, 2026 – “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 26, 2026 - Property of the Bankruptcy Estate

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

Class 5 August 31 – The Automatic Stay

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

September 7 – Labor Day; ASLS Closed

Classes 6, 7 & 8 September 2, 9 & 14 – 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 & 21 – 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 28, 30 and October 5 – 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.

October 12 – Fall Break; ASLS Closed

Classes 15, 16 & 17 October 7, 14 & 19 – Avoiding Powers

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

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 26 & 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.

Classes 21, 22 & 23 November 2, 4 & 9 – 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 24 November 11 – Jurisdiction and Procedure

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

Class 25 November 16 – Cross Border Bankruptcy

Read

Class 26 – Review

Examination Period - December 1 to 14.

Student Resources

[Antonin Scalia Law School Academic Regulations](#)
[GMU Common Course Policies Addendum](#)

[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, Professor Young is designated 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
703-993-2831

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)

[Student Disability Services](#)

[University Life](#)