

COURSE SYLLABUS

POLITICAL SCIENCE 312: BANKRUPTCY FOR PARALEGALS (3 semester hours)

Online Course

Live Lecture: Monday, 7:20 – 10:00 PM; Tuesday, 7:20 – 10:00 PM

Instructor: Professor Danny J. Wallis
Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences room 152
Office Hours: Professor Wallis is available by email or phone M – F, during normal business hours. (If an email is sent after 5 pm on a Friday, I will respond the following Monday.)
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Required Texts

Martin R. Frey, Sidney K. Swinson; Intro to Bankruptcy Law, 6th Edition. Delmar Cengage Publisher. ISBN: 9781435440807

Course Description

This course focuses on the available remedies for consumers under the United States Bankruptcy Code. The class gives students an overview and understanding of the remedies available to consumer debtors under both Chapters 7 and 13 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code. Students learn how secured transactions lead to the creation of secured liens and the effect the bankruptcy laws may have on secured creditor's interests. Students will gain an understanding of the bankruptcy filing process including the preparation of forms (pre-filing), hearing and litigation processes (Post-petition) and the closing of a bankruptcy case.

Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to enable the student to:

- Understand bankruptcy practice and procedures;
- Understand the role of the paralegal as a legal professional and related ethics in bankruptcy preparation;
- Understand the varying priority and status of creditor's rights; and,
- Become familiar with electronic platforms for bankruptcy preparation professionals.

Attendance/Participation Policy

You are expected to know how to navigate and use the D2L platform by utilizing the trainings made available to you by the University. You are expected to attend and participate in the online live lectures each week. Unless you experience technological difficulties, you are expected to use

earphones and a microphone to participate in each of the live lectures. In addition, you are required to participate in the discussion each week you have assigned readings. You must prepare for the discussion by reading ALL of the material assigned. Questions will be posted related to each topic the week readings are assigned. You must thoughtfully respond to the posted questions. Short posts unsupported by information in the readings may be given ZERO points.

Grading Policy

Lectures and Discussion: This class will be taught using the Socratic Method as well as lecture. You may be called on at any time and are expected to be fully prepared to discuss the assigned reading material during the live lectures and in the online discussions. This is a cumulative grade over the course of the semester.

Assignments: You are also responsible for completing the assignments listed in this syllabus. The assignments may be found within the chapters of the textbook and in handouts I will provide to you. If the assignment is a group assignment, you will be responsible for choosing your group members. A group may consist of 2 to 3 people. Your assignments will be reviewed, graded, and returned to you.

All assignments must have a cover page indicating the following: your name, class, chapter, and name of the assignment (as it appears in the syllabus), and date the assignment is due. A deduction of 10 points will be assessed to all assignments turned in without a cover page. You will submit your assignments in the dropbox provided to you in the D2L platform. **All assignments must be submitted in .pdf or word format.** Any other format may not be viewable or gradeable in D2L.

Case briefs, take-home exams, homework assignments, and any other written work must be submitted on or before the deadline provided to you. All written work will be graded not only on content, but also on writing style, including punctuation and grammar. Homework and case briefs Will NOT be accepted late or by email.

Your grade will be calculated according to the following formula:

Attendance/Participation 150 points
Assignments 250 points
Project 1 200 points
Project 2 200 points
Project 3 200 points
TOTAL 1000 points

Grade Distribution is as follows:

A = 1000 - 900 (90-100)
B = 899 - 800 (89-80)
C = 799 - 700 (79-70)

D = 699 - 650 (69-65)

F = 649 – Below (64 and below) (No extra credit work will be allowed unless assigned as a bonus to the entire class.)

Technology Requirements LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

Communication

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace (D2L), please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Classroom Etiquette

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies

and Procedures, Conduct) You are expected to exhibit respect for the instructor and fellow students at all times. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in removal from the online course.

Please be respectful of others' opinions even if you do not agree with them. I look forward to reading a variety of thoughts and opinions and I want you to express yourselves, but please be respectful! REMEMBER ALL CAPS MEANS YOU ARE YELLING.

Nondiscrimination Statement

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

COVID-19 Statement

East Texas A&M University recommends the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories.

Campus Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill-11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02R1.pdf> (and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Plagiarism Statement

“Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work, or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means:

1. to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2. to use (another's production) without crediting the source
3. to commit literary theft

4. to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

But can words and ideas really be stolen?

According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property, and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. If you have retained the essential idea of an original source, and have not cited it, then no matter how drastically you may have altered its context or presentation, you have still plagiarized.” (www.plagiarism.org)

If you plagiarize, you will receive a ZERO for the assignment in question. I also reserve the right to give you an F in the course. The matter will be referred to the Office of the Dean of the College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts and/or the Provost.

As Instructor, I reserve the right to amend, modify, or alter this syllabus as the situation may require. D2L will have the most current and up to date information, including changes or amendments.

Tentative Course Reading Assignments

Week 1- 1.13.2025

Course Overview and syllabus review

Week 2- 1.21.2025

Chapter 1: Evolution of Bankruptcy Law.

Assignments: e-Learning Assessment (D2L)

Week 3- 1.27.2025

Chapter 2: Bankruptcy Law and Where to Find It.

Assignment: Memo on Bankruptcy Laws (D2L)

Week 4- 2.3.2025

Chapter 3: The Cast of Characters and Their Roles

Assignment: Memo on Courts and Participants (D2L)

Week 5- 2.10.2025

Chapter 4: Information Gathering, Analysis, Counseling, etc.

Assignment: Memo on Requirements (D2L) Project 1 (D2L)

Week 6- 2.17.2025

Chapter 5: Chapter 7 Bankruptcy (Liquidation)

Bankruptcy Software

Week 7- 2.24.2025

Chapter 5: (Continued)

Bankruptcy Software

Assignment: Memo on Bankruptcy Software (D2L)

Week 8- 3.3.2025

Chapter 5: (Continued)

Bankruptcy Software Project 2 (D2L)

SPRING BREAK 3/10-3/14/24

Week 9- 3.17.2025

Chapter 5: (Continued)

Bankruptcy Software

Week 10- 3.24.2025

Chapter 6: Chapter 13 Bankruptcy (Reorganization)

Week 11- 3.31.2025

Chapter 6: (Continued)

Week 12- 4.7.2025

Chapter 6: (Continued) Project 3 (D2L)

Week 13- 4.14.2025

Chapter 6: (Continued)

Week 14- 4.21.2025

Chapter 9:

Appropriate Type of Bankruptcy for your Client

Week 15- 4.28.2025
Chapter 8: Chapter 11 Bankruptcy

Week 16- 5.5.2025
Finals Week