

**SECURED FINANCING 6347/25256**  
**Professor Jim Hawkins**  
**Spring 2025**

**Course Description**

Because lenders are concerned with ensuring debtors repay them, a lot of lending only occurs if the debtor puts up some collateral for the loan. This course examines the law that governs these transactions—the law of secured financing—found in Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code. We will discuss how a lender obtains a security interest in a debtor's property, how a lender perfects its interest, and what happens when two lenders claim an interest in the same property. The course is taught using a problem-based approach.

**Learning Outcomes**

Through and as a result of this course, students will: (1) demonstrate understanding of the rules and doctrines of the law of secured financing; and (2) demonstrate knowledge of the principles used to interpret cases and statutes relating to secured financing.

**Course Material**

The two required texts for this course are:

Lynn M LoPucki, Elizabeth Warren, and Robert M Lawless, *Secured Transactions: A Systems Approach* (9th Edition (**not 10th Edition**))

Elizabeth Warren, *Bankruptcy and Article 9* (any recent edition), from Aspen Publishers.

**Attendance**

The Law Center requires students to regularly attend classes. We will meet in person.

If a class has to be rescheduled, I will notify you as soon as possible and schedule a makeup class at a time during which you do not have any other classes.

**Assessment**

Your grade will be based on a three hour final examination consisting of multiple choice and essay questions. You may use one sheet of 8.5" x 11" paper with notes on it during the examination

Class participation will also be part of determining your grade and is important to learning the material. I will call on students each day to discuss the assigned material. I will divide the class into two sections based on where your last name falls in the alphabet. Names starting A - K will be on call on Mondays, and L - Z will be on call on

Wednesdays. I will call on people within the designated section randomly. If you are in class but unprepared on two occasions that I call on you, I will lower your grade by one step (e.g., from a B to a B-). To be prepared for class, you must complete the assigned reading and work the assigned problems. It is important to spend time grappling with each assigned problem, but you do not need to have the “correct” answer. I strongly suggest that the best way to prepare for class and for the exam is to write down your answers to the problems before class.

### **Contact Information/Office Hours**

Office: 341C  
Office Hours: by appointment  
Telephone: 713-743-5018  
E-mail: [jrhawkins@uh.edu](mailto:jrhawkins@uh.edu)

Please feel free to stop by my office, to e-mail me, or to set an appointment in order to discuss the class material or anything else of interest to you.

### **Accommodation of Disabilities**

UHLC is committed to ensuring that all students enjoy equal access and full participation. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on a disability (including any chronic or temporary medical or mental health condition), please feel free to reach out to me so that we may discuss options. If you require any support services, you may contact Ms. Samantha Ary, Academic Records Coordinator. Ms. Ary is located in room 44A TU-II in the Office of Student Services suite, and she can be reached at [sary@central.uh.edu](mailto:sary@central.uh.edu) or 713-743-7466. Requests for accommodation that involve graded assignments must be directed to Ms. Ary and should be made as soon as possible to allow adequate time to document and to process the request.

### **Counseling and Psychological Services**

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS ([www.uh.edu/caps](http://www.uh.edu/caps)) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let's Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. [http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets\\_talk.html](http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html)

The Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (“TLAP”) also supports law students who are dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and other mental health problems. You can reach TLAP at any time at 1-800-343-8527. TLAP's website includes a page with links to sources about mental health that are of interest to law students: <http://www.tlaphelps.org/lawstudents>

## **Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policies**

UHLC and the University of Houston are committed to maintaining and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you have experienced an incident of discrimination or sexual misconduct, a confidential reporting process is available to you. For more information, please refer to the University System's Anti-Discrimination Policy SAM 01.D.07 and Sexual Misconduct Policy SAM 01.D.08. Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty and other University employees are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. Due to this reporting requirement, faculty members and other employees are not a confidential resource. The reporting obligations under the sexual misconduct policy extends to alleged conduct by University employees and students.

## **Recording of Class**

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Center for Students with DisABILITIES. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

## **Syllabus Changes**

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Such modifications may include changes to the mode(s) of assessment for the course. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through email.

## **Assignments**

[forthcoming]