



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

COMMERCIAL LAW

LAW 610/SECTION 2

SPRING 2018

PROF. PETER MARCHETTI

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THE PROFESSOR

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LOCATION: 236H

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 2:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
(All other times by appointment only)

NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR:

Feel free to email me or call me with any questions. My contact information is listed above. You may also drop by my office or make an appointment to meet at other times (I generally maintain an open door policy). If you have any news reports etc. or any personal or professional experiences that seem to bear on the course material, I'd appreciate it if you'd pass them on to me. Please also feel free to contact me if you have questions about commercial law, business law, or bankruptcy law beyond the course, or after the course is over.

COURSE BOOKS & MATERIAL

Required Texts:

(1) Douglas J. Whaley & Stephen M. McJohn, Problems and Materials on Commercial Law, 10th Ed. (ISBN : 978-1-4548-0719-3)

(2) Ronald J. Mann, Elizabeth Warren & Jay Lawrence Westbrook, Comprehensive Commercial Law Supplement (or any other current copy of UCC Articles 1, 3, 4 & 9).

Secondary Materials/Study Aids:

To be discussed in class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & LEARNING OBJECTIVES

DESCRIPTION:

In this 4 credit course, students will learn about the law governing: (i) negotiable instruments (Article 3 of the UCC); (ii) Banks and their customers (Article 4 of the UCC); and (iii) secured lending (Article 9 of the UCC).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To read and understand the relevant statutory provisions of the UCC and its Official Comments.

To analyze complex fact patterns provided in the Whaley/McJohn textbook and properly apply the relevant provisions of the UCC thereto.

To learn the relevant portions of the UCC for the Texas Bar Exam.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To identify the applicable source of law (UCC Art. 3, 4 or 9) that applies to a specific fact pattern.
2. To state the applicable legal rule(s) (i.e. the “Black Letter Law”), including all elements and exceptions.
3. To learn to properly *apply* the applicable Black Letter Law to a specific fact pattern.
4. To make and/or anticipate sound legal arguments on both sides of an issue.
5. To appreciate the importance of precise language and good drafting.
6. To read and understand applicable statutes.
7. To convey your understanding of the above both orally and in writing.
8. To develop and utilize critical thinking skills and analytical skills in a rigorous environment.

EVALUATION TOOLS FOR EVALUATING LEARNING OUTCOMES

Throughout the course, students will be required to:

1. Read, analyze and respond to complex problems sets.
2. Read, analyze and prepare written essays to practice Essay Questions and to Texas Bar-Styled Essay Questions.
3. Read, analyze and answer practice multiple choice questions.
4. Complete a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam.



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GRADING

Midterm Exam: 15%

Final Exam: 85%

100% (as may be adjusted for class participation as described herein).

ACCOMMODATIONS

An "accommodation" is defined for these purposes as any student request for deviation from the time, date or circumstances under which schedule graded assignments are administered. Students must apply to and be granted WRITTEN accommodation by the DEAN'S OFFICE if he/she will not be in attendance for any graded assignment or test (e.g., graded quiz and midterm/final exams). Once granted, the professor must receive official confirmation from the DEAN'S OFFICE of any ALTERNATIVE DATES or accommodated changes that have been granted to the student. All requests for ACCOMMODATIONS must be handled by the Dean's office rather than by the professor. ORAL CONVERSATIONS made with EITHER the professor or the DEAN'S OFFICE ARE NOT BINDING.

Students requesting accommodations may do so through the Office of Student Affairs.

PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE & PROFESSIONALISM

Participation

You are expected to act professionally in the classroom, which requires lively and courteous discussion and debate. This includes but is not limited to being prepared for class (you have already read and thought about the assigned materials for the day's class), participating in a civilized discussion, actively listening to the lecture and discussion, fairly considering the viewpoints of others, and allowing others to adequately express those viewpoints.

As class participation is a very important part of this course, I may, in my sole discretion: (i) raise a student's grade by up to one full letter grade for exceptional class participation; or (ii) lower a student's grade by one full letter grade for exceptionally poor class participation.

Poor class participation constitutes unprofessional or improper conduct, including, without limitation, the following:

Being unprepared when called on

Any in-class disruptive conduct

Attendance

You should be aware of the Attendance Policy in the Student Handbook. Attendance will be taken via a sign-in sheet at the beginning of each class.



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ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2017 – 2018

FALL SEMESTER 2017 (SEVENTY DAYS OF CLASSES)

Orientation	Monday-Friday	August 14-18, 2017
First Day of Class	Monday	August 21, 2017
Last Day to ADD/DROP	Friday	August 25, 2017
Labor Day (NO CLASSES)	Monday	September 4, 2017
<i>Purge of all unpaid course selections</i>	Wednesday	September 27, 2017
Mid Term Examinations	Mon – Fri	October 23-27, 2017
Thanksgiving Holiday	Thurs – Fri	November 23-24, 2017
Last Day of Classes	Thursday	November 30, 2017
Last Day to Drop a Class	Thursday	November 30, 2017
First Year Professors' Grades due	Thursday	November 30, 2017
<i>*Legislative Tuesday</i>	Friday	December 1, 2017
<i>*Legislative Wednesday</i>	Saturday	December 2, 2017
<i>*Legislative Thursday</i>	Monday	December 4, 2017
<i>*Legislative Friday</i>	Tuesday	December 5, 2017
Reading Day (NO CLASS)	Wednesday	December 6, 2017
Final Examinations	Thursday- Friday	December 7 -Dec. 15, 2017
Commencement	Saturday	December 16, 2017
<i>*Legislative Days are make-up days from Hurricane Harvey August 28 – September 1, 2017</i>		

SPRING SEMESTER 2018 (SEVENTY DAYS OF CLASSES)

School Opens	Tuesday	January 2, 2018
First Day of Class	Monday	January 8, 2018
Last Day to ADD/DROP	Wednesday	January 10, 2018
MLK Holiday (No Classes)	Monday	January 15, 2018
<i>Purge of all unpaid course selections</i>	Wednesday	February 7, 2018
Mid Term Examinations	Mon – Fri	March 5– 9, 2018
Spring Break	Mon – Fri	March 12 – 16, 2018
Spring Break (University Closed)	Mon-Wed	March 12- 14, 2018
Good Friday (No Classes)	Friday	March 30, 2018
Last Day of Classes	Wednesday	April 25, 2018
Last Day to Drop a Class	Wednesday	April 25, 2018
First Year Professors' Grades due	Wednesday	April 25, 2018
Reading Period (No Classes)	Thur. – Sun	April 26 - 29, 2018
Final Examinations	Mon- Fri	April 30 – May 11, 2018
Hooding Ceremony	Friday	May 11, 2018
Commencement	Saturday	May 12, 2018

Please note that the calendar events and /or dates are subject to change.

Approved 5/31/2017 * Updated 11/14 /2017

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Laptop & Cell Phone Policy

You may use laptop computers in class, provided, however, that such use is not disruptive or disrespectful to your fellow students. Such disruptive or disrespectful use of your laptop may result in your losing the right to use your laptop computer for the remainder of the class and may result in your being marked absent (without excuse) for the class.

Please turn off your cell phones and any other electronic communication devices (or set them to “silent or vibrate”) while you are in class. If you expect to be contacted for a legitimate emergency while in class, please let me know prior to class to make appropriate arrangements. Also, if you must take or make an emergency call during class, please leave the room discreetly to do so.

Recording of Classes

You are authorized to record our classes for your **personal** use only. You are **not authorized** to post recordings/podcasts to the internet (including a personal blog accessible by others).

READING ASSIGNMENTS

*SUBJECT TO REVISION OR AMENDMENT IN PROFESSOR'S SOLE DISCRETION

Time permitting, we will aim to cover one assignment per session. In addition, time permitting, we may take some time to explore related material. Please skip all cases that are not mentioned on this syllabus.

<u>Negotiable Instruments</u>	<u>Whaley /McJohn Book</u>
Negotiability & Negotiation	Week 1: Chapters 7 & 8 Introduction Cases: Triffin v. Dillabough; Woodworth v. Richmond Indiana Venture Problems: 89-100; 101-108
Holder in Due Course; Defenses	Weeks 2 & 3: Chapter 9 Cases: Any Kind of Checks Cashed, Inc. v. Talcott; Winter & Hirsch v. Passarelli; Jones v. Approved Bancredit Corp.; In re Thomas, 477 B.R. 402 (2011) (not in book-to be distributed); FDIC v. Culver; Virginia National Bank v. Holt Problems: 110-117; 119-122; 123-129 (but skip 126).
Nature of Liability	Week 4: Chapter 10 Cases: Chemical Bank v. Pic Motors; Mundaca Investment Corp. v. Febba Problems: 132-148 (but Skip 134, 136(d)-(e), 143 and 145); 150-153; 154-159



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<u>Negotiable Instruments (Con't)</u>	<u>Whaley /McJohn Book</u>
Wrongdoing & Error	Week 5: Chapter 12 (but only pages 583 to 590). Problems: 197-203
Article 4-Banks and their Customers: Properly Payable, Wrongful Dishonor, Death & Incompetence of Customer, Set Off, Stop Payment, Subrogation, Cashier/Certified Checks, Bank Statement, Final Payment, Forgeries and Conversion	Week 6: Chapter 11 Problems: 160-177 (but skip 163, 169 & 176); 178, 183, 185
<u>Secured Transactions</u>	<u>Whaley /McJohn Book</u>
Introduction, Scope of Article 9, Classifying the Collateral, Technical Validity of the Forms	Weeks 7 & 8: Chapters 17, 18 & 19 Problems: 275; 276-290 (skip 283, 286 & 288); 291-296; 298-310 (skip 309); 312-314 Cases: Benedict v. Ratner; In re Fabers; In re Troupe; In re Grabowski
Perfection	Week 9: Chapter 20 Problems: 317-319; 323-326 Cases: C.W. Min. Co., 488 B.R. 715 (D. Utah 2013)-not in book, to be distributed.



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<u>Secured Transactions (Con't)</u>	<u>Whaley /McJohn Book</u>
Priority	Weeks 10-11: Chapter 22 Problems: 334-339, 342-350 (but skip 343, 344, 345, 347 & 349); 352-362 (but skip 352(d), 360-361). Cases: In re Wild West
Proceeds	Week 12: Chapter 24 Problems: 389-396 (but skip 391, 392, 394-395)
TBA	Weeks 13-14 TBA

Syllabus Subject to Change

This Syllabus is not a contract and may be amended or supplemented at any time in my sole discretion.