

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE
FALL 2016

Course: Tax Practice and Procedure
LAW 955.512/LAWT 955.491/TAXA 654.185

Instructor: John B. Snyder, III
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Days/Time: Thursdays, 6:15-9 p.m.

Location: Room assignments are available through MyUB.

Course Description:

Catalogue Description: Aspects of practice before the Internal Revenue Service, including ruling requests, handling of audits, assessment of deficiencies and penalties, closing agreements, tax liens, statutes of limitations, claims for refunds, appeals, conferences and practice before the U.S. Tax Court, U.S. district courts, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and appellate courts. Also includes analysis of the problems encountered in parallel civil and criminal proceedings, problems involving government investigatory powers and taxpayer rights and privileges.

Course Materials:

The following materials are **required**:

- a. David M. Richardson, Jerome Borison and Steve Johnson, *Civil Tax Procedure*
- b. Complete Internal Revenue Code. The RIA/Thompson edition of the complete code has been ordered by the bookstore, though you may use another edition of the Code, including electronic versions, if you so choose. Be certain that you are using the **complete** Code. The supplements that accompany most introductory income tax classes do **not** contain the complete Code.
- c. Handouts throughout the semester.
- d. Revised syllabi, including assignments for future classes, will be distributed as necessary as the semester progresses.

Additionally, Camilla E. Watson, *Tax Procedure and Tax Fraud* (from the West Nutshell series) is recommended but not required.

Student Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- 1) Describe the structure of the American tax controversy system.
- 2) Navigate procedural requirements at the various stages of tax controversies.
- 3) Recognize potential tax controversy problems and solutions in factual situations.

Grades:

Tax Practice and Procedure is subject to the Law School's mandatory grading range. The class grade point average must be in the range of 3.00 and 3.5. Your grade will be based on the following:

- a. **Final Exam** – There will be a three-hour final exam. The exam will cover all of the material covered during the semester. The final exam will be worth **65%** of your grade.
- b. **Weekly Discussion Problems** – Most weeks of the semester, you will be required to complete one or more problems on a tax controversy topic. Most of these problems are found at the end of each chapter of reading in your textbook. Answers should be complete and comprehensible and refer to any relevant statutes, regulations, or doctrines but need not conform to any particular form. A complete answer will generally range from a sentence or two for a short problem to a page for a highly complex problem. These problems are designed to assess your ability to apply the legal principles discussed in your reading in factual situations and to practice for the course exam. Please submit your answers via e-mail no later than noon of the Wednesday preceding the class in which the relevant reading will be covered. Collectively, these problems will be worth **25%** of your grade.
- c. **Class Participation** – Class participation is worth **10%** of your grade. Your grade will be calculated based on your willingness to volunteer answers, how well you are prepared, how well you think through and are able to discuss issues you might not have thought about before class, and how clearly you express yourself. If there is a class that you have not prepared for, you should let the professor know before class rather than “passing” if called on during class. Additionally, if you “pass” more than twice in the semester, you will lose class participation points.

Course Expectations:

American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools establish guidelines for the amount of work students should expect to complete for each credit earned. Students should expect approximately one hour of classroom instruction and two hours of out-of-class work for each credit earned in a class, or an equivalent amount of work for other academic activities, such as simulations, externships, clinical supervision, co-curricular activities, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

You are expected to complete all reading assignments and to consistently participate in class discussion in order to demonstrate that you have read and reflected on the issues raised in the assignment. You should also **read any Internal Revenue Code or Treasury Regulation provisions listed at the beginning of each chapter of reading**. Reading and applying the Code is a critical part of effective tax practice. Be sure to bring copies of relevant code provisions to class. Additionally, you should be prepared to discuss any assigned problems.

Attendance:

Class attendance is a primary obligation of each J.D. student whose right to continued enrollment in the course and to take the examination is conditioned upon a record of attendance satisfactory to the professor. A J.D. student who exceeds the maximum allowed absences (generally 20% of class sessions) as illustrated below may be compelled to withdraw from the course, or may be barred from sitting for the final exam. J.D. students who are forced to withdraw for exceeding the allowed absences may receive a grade of FA (failure due to excessive absence). This policy is consistent with American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools.

Regular Semester Hours		
Credit Hours	Meetings Per Week	
	1	2
2	2 absences	5 absences
3	2 absences	5 absences
4	--	5 absences

While LL.M. and M.S. students should endeavor to attend each class, there is no attendance policy applying to these students.

Course Website:

We will be using TWEN for this class. This syllabus, and any revisions to it, will be posted on TWEN. The TWEN site will facilitate email communications, including messages about the substance of the course and announcements about class cancellations or make-up classes. The TWEN site also serves as a distribution point for readings and problems not contained in the textbook throughout the course.

All students are required to sign up for the TWEN page. You are solely responsible for any messages you may miss if you do not sign up. The password for the clinic TWEN site is "UBtppf16." You will need academic Westlaw access to sign up for TWEN. If you do not have such access, contact the Law Library to receive an academic Westlaw password.

Computers

Students may use laptop computers for class related purposes. Note that this course will be streamed live via Skype. If you are attending class electronically, you must use your microphone rather than Skype chat to participate in class discussion. Please be sure to mute your microphone except when you are speaking and to identify yourself before speaking in class.

Class Cancellation

If the instructor must cancel a class, notices will be sent to students via email and posted on the classroom door. If there is inclement weather, students should visit the University of Baltimore web site or call the University's Snow Closing Line at (410) 837-4201. If the University is open, students should presume that classes are running on the normal schedule.

Academic Integrity:

Students are obligated to refrain from acts that they know or, under the circumstances, have reason to know will impair the academic integrity of the University and/or School of Law. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, misuse of materials, inappropriate communication about exams, use of unauthorized materials and technology, misrepresentation of any academic matter, including attendance, and impeding the Honor Code process. The School of Law Honor Code and information about the process is available at http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/policiesandprocedures/honor_code/.

Title IX Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination Policy:

The University of Baltimore's Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination policy is compliant with Federal laws prohibiting discrimination. Title IX requires that faculty, student employees and staff members report to the university any known, learned or rumored incidents of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking on the basis of sex, dating/intimate partner violence or sexual exploitation and/or related experiences or incidents. Policies and procedures related to Title IX and UB's nondiscrimination policies can be found at: <http://www.ubalt.edu/titleix>.

Disability Policy

If you are a student with a documented disability who requires an academic accommodation, please contact Leslie Metzger, Director for Student Support in the Office of Academic Affairs at 410-516-5623 or via email at lmetzger@ubalt.edu.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 25 – Introduction to Tax Controversies

Read: *Civil Tax Procedure*, Chapters 1 (skip Problem A) and 2

Problems: *Read* (do not turn in) Chapter 1, Problem B; Chapter 2, Questions 1(e), 6, and 7

2. **September 1** – Innocent Spouse Relief
Read: *Civil Tax Procedure*, Chapter 3; cases to be distributed
Problems: Chapter 3, Problems 1 and 2
3. **September 8** – Examination of Tax Returns
Read: *Civil Tax Procedure*, Chapter 4
Problems: Chapter 4, Problems A and B
4. **September 15** – Assessment of Tax
Read: *Civil Tax Procedure*, Chapter 5
Problems: Chapter 5, Problems a, b, and c
5. **September 22** – The Notice of Deficiency and Tax Court Litigation
Read: *Civil Tax Procedure*, Chapter 8 (skip Section VII)
Problems: Chapter 8, Problems 1 through 6
6. **September 29** – Overpayments and Claims for Refund
Read: *Civil Tax Procedure*, Chapter 9
Problems: Chapter 9, Problems a through e
7. **October 6** – Judicial and Statutory Rules that Override the Statute of Limitations
Read: *Civil Tax Procedure*, Chapter 10
Problems: Chapter 10, Problems 1 and 4
8. **October 13** – Tax Collection
Read: *Civil Tax Procedure*, Chapter 13
Problems: Chapter 13, Problems 1-2
9. **October 20** – Collection Litigation and Third Party Liability
Read: *Civil Tax Procedure*, Chapter 8, Section VII and Chapter 15 (skim); cases to be distributed
Problems: Chapter 13, Problems 3-4
10. **October 27** – Termination and Jeopardy Assessment
Read: *Civil Tax Procedure*, Chapter 7
Problems: none

11. November 3 – The Trust Fund Recovery Penalty

Read: *Civil Tax Procedure*, Chapter 14

Problems: Chapter 14, Problems 1, 3, and 4

12. November 10 – Tax Disclosure and F.O.I.A.

Read: cases and handout to be distributed

Problems: to be distributed

13. November 17 – Administrative Law and Tax Practice

Read: *Civil Tax Procedure*, Chapter 1, Problem A; cases and article to be distributed

Problems: *Read* (do not turn in) Chapter 1, Problem A

14. November 29 – Ethical Controls on Tax Practice; Review Questions and Answers

Read: materials to be distributed

Problems: none

Note: This class session will meet on Tuesday rather than the regular Thursday meeting time.