This course examines legal procedures for judicial enforcement of unsecured debts, and complements Secured Transactions’s coverage of consensual liens in personal property (security interests) and Iowa Real Estate Finance Law’s coverage of consensual liens in real estate (mortgages).

Topics addressed include (i) mechanisms for the collection of money judgments (judgment liens/execution procedures/garnishment), (ii) exempt property (homesteads/wage garnishment limitations/pensions), (iii) sale procedures (appraisement/statutory redemption), (iv) regulation of abusive collection practices (common law/state and federal statutes) (v) prejudgment remedies (attachment/replevin), (vi) statutory liens (landlords/mechanics liens), (vii) constitutional limitations (due process/contract impairment), (viii) fraudulent conveyances, and (ix) state law insolvency procedures (compositions/extensions/assignments for benefit of creditors).

Because most of these subjects are governed by non-uniform state law, the course considers them in the context of Iowa statutes and cases. This use of Iowa as a specific instance, however, does not limit the course’s utility as a basis for understanding the methods and dynamics of this area of the law in other jurisdictions.