

**CONTRACTS I
LAW 5000-02, 03**

SYLLABUS

Fall Semester, 2009

Section 2: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 10:52 a.m., Room 101

Section 3: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. – 2:52 p.m., Room 101

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Course Objectives and Focus: The five credit hour sequence of Contracts I and II provides an introduction to the basic foundations of forcibility of contractual arrangements: formation, performance, breach and damages, rights of third parties, conditions, Statute of Frauds, and assignments. Inquiry is made into the historical developments of contract law and nineteenth-century notions of the doctrine of consideration in light of developing twentieth-century concepts and alterations. Economic aspects of the subject are considered along with modern statutory developments, including the Uniform Commercial Code. A primary objective of this course is for students to develop a pattern of analysis and expression central to their work as lawyers.

This description is from the College of Law website, and may be intimidating to you. From my perspective, our goals for the semester are three-fold: 1) learn and understand the formation of contracts; 2) discover legal reasoning in the context of cases; and 3) become accustomed to thinking like a lawyer. (At times, this will be challenging, but do not get discouraged—you're just beginning your journey.)

Required Texts: PROBLEMS IN CONTRACT LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS, Charles L. Knapp, et al., (Aspen Publishers) (6th ed.) (“Knapp”); and CONTRACTS LAW: SELECTED SOURCE MATERIALS, Steven J. Burton & Melvin A. Eisenberg ed. (Thomson West) (2009) (“Supp.”). I also recommend CONTRACTS, E. Allan Farnsworth (Aspen Publishers) (4th ed.) as a general treatise. Other related treatises are on reserve in the Research Center.

Course Requirements and Grades: The Contracts sequence at the College of Law comprises three credit hours in the fall and two credit hours in the spring. You will receive a separate grade for each semester's course. This course will be graded on a 100-point scale. The final examination will be worth a total of 100 points and will be closed book. Your laptops may be used to type your exams, provided College of Law rules and procedures are followed, including use of the appropriate software. Exams may also be written by hand, if you prefer. All students will be expected to come to class prepared and to participate in class discussion. I welcome and encourage questions and comments from you during class. I also expect you to be courteous to your fellow students who may have questions or comments during class. I intend to call on students randomly during class to discuss the materials. Therefore, it is in your best interest to keep up with the readings and to be engaged during our discussion. Internet access and playing computer games during class are prohibited.

Academic Conduct Policy: The College of Law has an academic honor code, known as the Student Conduct Code, available at http://www.law.fsu.edu/current_students/rules/studentconduct.pdf. You are bound by the College of Law's Code in all of your academic work. The Code outlines the College of Law's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

ADA Statement: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

1. Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SRDC) in Kellum Hall;
2. Bring a letter to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs from the SRDC indicating you need academic accommodations. This should be done within the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

Attendance: Class attendance is required for this course. I will circulate an attendance sheet at the beginning of each class for you to sign. Please be aware that the College of Law requires that you attend a minimum of 80 percent of our classes to receive credit for the course (e.g., 6 classes for the fall semester). Any student not attending a minimum of 21 of our 27 classes will not be allowed to take the final examination. Please also be on time for our classes; punctuality is demanded of lawyers and your training begins here.

Office Hours And General Administration: My official office hours will be from 3 - 5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday afternoons. When I am not teaching, I am usually in my office and available for questions during normal business hours. If you would like to make sure that I am there outside of my office hours, please email or phone to make an appointment. I would prefer that you did not stop by before the 9:30 a.m. classes unless the matter is urgent. If you prefer, questions are also welcome by email. (You may find that the exercise of writing out your questions helps with your misunderstanding or confusion.)

Schedule: Each assignment listed on the schedule that follows is tentative, and I may provide you with updates or changes periodically during the semester. I may utilize the class Blackboard site to provide commentary on problems or topics that we may not have time to discuss in class. As with any course with substantive discussion, we may have to adjust the schedule in accordance with our pace through the materials. I will inform you in advance when any changes occur that affect the reading assignments.

<u>Class #</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u> (in Knapp et al. unless otherwise noted)
1	Introduction to Contracts	1-20 (Prob. 1-1)
2	Objective Theory of Contract	21-33 (<i>Ray</i>)
3	Offer and Acceptance – Bilateral	33-51 (<i>Loneragan, Izadi, Normile</i>)
4	Offer and Acceptance - Unilateral	51-70 (<i>Petterson, Cook, Harlow</i>)