

LSTD508

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : LSTD508 **Title :** Contract Law

Length of Course : 8

Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: This graduate course is designed to introduce students to the concepts and sources of contract law. This course evaluates the various components of a legally binding agreement or promise and surveys the major issues affecting such enforceable agreements. Students will examine what constitutes breach of contract and the remedies available. The role of contracts in the commercial arena and in society will also be analyzed.

Course Scope:

Contract law is concerned with the formation of contracts, which are promises that the law may enforce. This course will explore the meaning of contracts in today's society and the basic attributes in a contractual relationship. The historical roots and development of contract law will be considered. Because the analysis of cases is central to the study of contract law, this course will outline techniques and principles of reading, understanding, and applying case law. The traditional offer and acceptance are analyzed in light of problems presented by modern bargaining techniques. Voidability of contracts formed by fraud, mistake, illegality, and unconscionable advantage is also stressed. The performance of contracts, the Statute of Frauds, and the Parol Evidence rule are examined. The course discusses the role of judicial regulations in improper bargaining. The remedies for breach of contract are analyzed from a public policy perspective.

Objectives

After completing this course the Student will be able to:

1. Identify the fundamental principles that guide the operation of agreements;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the legal terms and concepts in contract law;
3. Evaluate and appraise what rights a person acquires under a contract;
4. Define the conditions under which performance of a contract is required or excused;
5. Identify what constitutes breach of contract and the remedies available for breach;

6. Interpret complex contract language;
 7. Employ the proper drafting of a contract while complying with all the elements of contract formation to include the Statute of Frauds; and
 8. Assess specific cases of contract law and recognize the laws and precedents established.
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Outline

Week 1:

Reading

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 1, found in the Lesson section of the classroom.

Course/ Learning Objectives

CO-1: Identify the fundamental principles that guide the operation of agreements.

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LO- 1: Explain the legal meaning of a contract.

LO-2: Describe how contract law is applicable to diverse transactions.

LO-3: Assess the fundamental policies of contract law.

LO-4: Elaborate on the value of personal autonomy in the freedom to contract.

LO-5: Expound on the historical perspectives of contract law.

LO-6: Distinguish between classical and contemporary contract law.

LO-7: Summarize the doctrine of precedent.

LO-8: Dissect a contract law case.

Assignment

(1) Post your introduction in the Forum; and

(2) Respond to the question posted in the Forum.

(Initial Post due Wednesday and minimum 2 replies due Sunday of this week)

Week 2:

Reading

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 2, found in the Lesson section of the classroom.

Course/ Learning Objectives

CO-2: Demonstrate knowledge of the legal terms and concepts in contract law.

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LO-9: Distinguish between the subjective and objective tests of assent.

LO-10: Illustrate the rules of the offer and acceptance model.

LO-11: Assess the various forms of contract acceptance.

LO-12: Explain the effect of an option.

LO-13: Discern the scope and purpose of the UCC.

LO-14: Illustrate the essence and scope of consideration as the basis of a contractual obligation.

Assignment

(1) Respond to the question posted in the Forum.

(Initial Post due Wednesday and minimum 2 replies due Sunday of this week)

And

(2) Submit your Research Paper Proposal

Week 3:

Reading

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 3 found in the Lesson section of the classroom.

Course/ Learning Objectives

CO-3: Evaluate and appraise what rights a person acquires under a contract.

CO-4: Define the conditions under which performance of a contract is required or excused.

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LO-15: Discern the difference between contract and promissory estoppel.

LO-16: Classify the range of promissory estoppel.

LO-17: Appraise the value of promissory estoppel as a means of enforcing promises.

LO-18: Analyze the relationship between unjust enrichment and contract.

LO-19: Theorize as to the appropriate judicial response to problems of indefiniteness in contracts.

LO-20: Propose who is best to ascertain the meaning of a contract, the judge, or a jury.

LO-21: Explain the general rules of interpretation.

Assignment

(1) Respond to the question posted in the Forum.

(Initial Post due Wednesday and minimum 2 replies due Sunday of this week)

(2) Submit your case brief. See details in the Assignment section of your online classroom.

Week 4:

Reading

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 4, found in the Lesson section of the classroom.

Assignment

Complete the Forum Assignment for Week 4.

Week 5:

Reading

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 5 found in the Lesson section of the classroom.

Course/ Learning Objectives

CO-5: Interpret complex contract language.

CO-6: Employ the proper drafting of a contract while complying with all the elements of contract formation to include the Statute of Frauds.

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LO-22: Analyze the public policy objectives behind the Statute of Frauds.

LO-23: Assess what types of contracts fall within the Statute of Frauds.

LO-24: Summarize the application and basic purpose of the Parol Evidence Rule.

LO-25: Evaluate the public policy objectives behind the Parol Evidence Rule.

LO-26: Appraise the nature and relationship of the doctrines regulating bargaining.

LO-27: Explain the concept of unconscionability.

Assignment

1. Respond to the question posted in the Forum.

(Initial Post due Wednesday and minimum 2 replies due Sunday of this week)

And

2. Submit the assignment to draft a contract found in the Assignment section of the classroom.

Week 6:

Reading

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 6 found in the Lesson section of the classroom.

Course/ Learning Objectives

CO-7: Assess specific cases of contract law and recognize the laws, precedents and public policies established.

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LO-28: Assess the public policy reasons behind the doctrine of incapacity.

LO-29: Distinguish between the mistake, impracticability, and frustration of purpose.

LO-30: Compare/contrast the remedies for mistake, impracticability, and frustration of purpose.

LO-31: Analyze the structure of a contract.

LO-32: Categorize the various types of “conditions” in contract law.

Assignment

Respond to the question posted in the Forum.

(Initial Post due Wednesday and minimum 2 replies due Sunday of this week)

Week 7:

Reading

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 7 found in the Lesson section of the classroom.

Course/ Learning Objectives

CO-8: Identify what constitutes breach of contract and the remedies available for breach. Assess the significance and ramifications of the non-fulfillment of a promise.

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LO-33: Explain anticipatory repudiation.

LO-34: Summarize the basic goal of remedies for breach of contracts.

LO-35: Distinguish between intended and unintended beneficiaries.

LO-36: Explain the nature, restrictions, and effect of assignment.

Assignment

(1) Respond to the question posted in the Forum.

(Initial Post due Wednesday and minimum 2 replies due Sunday of this week)

(2) Submit Research Paper to the assignment tab for week 7.

Week 8:

Required Reading

Please complete all the reading in the Lesson for week 7 found in the Lesson section of the classroom.

Assignment

Take the final exam. The final exam covers weeks 5 - 8. This exam will count towards 25% of your final grade. The exam is open book and may be found under the section titled “Tests and Quizzes.”

Evaluation

CONTACT, MESSAGING TOOL AND E-MAIL:

Contact between students and instructor can occur by phone or email. However, the best way to reach your instructor is via the MESSAGE tool in the Sakai classroom. Students are expected to maintain routine contact with the instructor throughout the course. The number of these contacts may vary according to the specific course and individual student need. If you have not received a response from your instructor within 24 hours, please follow up, as the message or email may not have been received.

ASSIGNMENTS:

The assignments will consist of seven (7) Forums, a case brief, drafting a contract, a Research Paper Proposal, Research Paper.

RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL: The research proposal has three parts. The first part is your initial discussion of the problem or issue you are going to research. In order to do this, one may have to do a bit of initial research. At the graduate level, one is required to spend some time thinking through the issues or problems one wants to explore. The proposal sets the tone and the parameters of your research. Remember you only have a total of 7 weeks to complete the research paper, so your topic has to be narrow enough so you can fully discuss and develop your idea. It must be such to lead to a unique conclusion, which will be discussed later.

Once you have described the legal issue or problem and set the parameters of the paper, then you transition into the second part of the research proposal. This part lays out how you plan on approaching the paper, the type of research you plan on conducting, and in general, the direction the paper will take.

Finally, the most important part of the research proposal is the conclusion. Or, more specifically, what you hope to conclude. For a thesis statement, one may refer to the conclusion as the hypothesis, which ideally will be supported to reach a solid conclusion.

The conclusion is the whole purpose behind the paper. It is nice to do research so you, the student, can learn more about a topic, or to inform a reader about a problem and the surrounding issues, but that is not the purpose of the paper itself. The purpose is for you to draw a conclusion.

A conclusion may be a recommendation or recommendations based on your research for whomever reads the paper, the lessons learned from the examples you gave, lessons that can be applied to a current situation, or a lesson that was not learned and therefore a mistake had been made in either a current or past situation, or your unique opinion or perspective on how history developed based on the research you did and your analysis.

So, the research proposal must have a working conclusion, hypothesis, in mind. The conclusion may change based on further research, but in order to conduct research one must have a goal in mind. Take time and think about how you want to end the paper.

FORUMS: Submit your initial response to the Forum discussion topic by Wednesday at midnight so your classmates can respond to your posting by Sunday. This initial submission should contain at least 500 words.

The Forum is a “class discussion” activity. Therefore, if you fail to participate in the Forum during the week it is assigned, no credit will be awarded. As with all class participation, you are either “in class” or you are not.

For all Forum assignments (including Week One), you must respond to my query by midnight on Wednesday, and respond to at least two classmates by Sunday at midnight. Please note that your responses to your classmates should contain at least 250 words each. To earn full credit see the requirements in the Forum Rubric.

CASE BRIEF: See the instructions in the online classroom.

DRAFTING A CONTRACT: See the instructions in the online classroom.

RESEARCH PAPER:

Students are required to submit a research paper worth 20% of your grade. The paper should be between 10-15 pages in length. All written submissions are required to be double-spaced.

The paper topic will be selected by the student with approval of the instructor via the research proposal. The topic may be on any topic related to *contract law*. The length should be between ten and fifteen pages at a maximum (double spaced, 12 point font), excluding Title Page and Reference Page. This is a graduate level course and a paper commensurate with graduate level work is expected. The paper length is ultimately determined by the parameters the student sets in his or her introduction and the amount of writing necessary to fully develop and analyze the legal topic selected. All sources of information must be footnoted and selected bibliography of all sources used or referenced expected. Works cited alone is not acceptable.

And yes, you must use **footnotes!** The central function of legal citation is to allow the reader to efficiently locate the cited source. All courses in the Legal Studies program require that any narrative essay or composition format follow the legal citation guidelines set forth in The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 20th ed., More information can be found in the Web Resources and Course Resources links in the classroom.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
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Materials

Book Title: Various resources from the Open Web are used. Links provided inside the classroom in the Lessons section.

Author:

Publication Info:

ISBN: N/A

Course Guidelines

Writing Expectations

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. They should use correct grammar and checked for spelling and other errors prior to submission. Specific details are provided in the assignment section as assignment formats vary. Uploaded documents in the assignment section should be in word (.doc, .docx) format. Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will automatically analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism or overuse of quotes for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The expectation is that the writing will be in your words after analysis of the sources.

Citation and Reference Style

The central function of legal citation is to allow the reader to efficiently locate the cited source. All courses in the Legal Studies program require that any narrative essay or composition format follow the legal citation guidelines set forth in The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation. Do not purchase The Bluebook, as it is available at the APUS library. Use this link to access: <http://ezproxy.apus.edu/login?>

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Deductions

Late forum posts, assignments, and exams may be penalized five (5) points per day.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

Technology Limitations: While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

Humor Note: Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :))

Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan: The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

Electronic Books: You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.

Electronic Journals: The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

Tutor.com: AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Legal Studies Program Guide: This should be your starting point as you explore the resources available for

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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