

CONTRACTS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW
SPRING SYLLABUS – LAW 5000 – 4 CREDITS

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm or by appointment

MEETING TIME: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 1:45 pm – 3:00 pm

LOCATION: HH 283

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this course is for you to develop a greater understanding of the private law of contracts. We will cover contract formation, contract interpretation, defense to the enforcement of contracts, performance and non-performance, breach of contracts, damages, and, if we have time, the rights and responsibilities of third parties.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe the common law and statutory foundations of contract law,
- Demonstrate an understanding of the contract law principles that govern the process of resolving contract law disputes,
- Explain how policy goals have contributed to the development of contract law and related doctrines,
- Evaluate the drafting choices that parties make when designing contracts, and
- Apply contracts law to real-world hypothetical situations.

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS:

Our casebook is Knapp, Crystal, & Prince, Problems in Contract Law: Cases and Materials (10th ed. 2023). You do not need to purchase a statutory supplement, as those materials are freely available online. Please be sure to register for the Canvas course and have any required materials with you in print or easily accessible electronic form in class. You are responsible for checking your Canvas page and the email connected to the page on a regular basis for any class announcements or adjustments.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING EVALUATION:

Your final grade will be based on three assignments (15%), a final exam (80%), and class participation (5%). Three assignments, including multiple choice questions in February, short answer questions in March, and essays in April, will be assigned and completed in class. They will be graded on a pass-fail basis.

The final exam will also consist of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and essays. You will take the final exam at the scheduled date and time except in a case of family or medical emergency or accommodation made by the Office of Student Affairs. More exam logistics will be announced a few weeks before the final exam. I will grade the final exam blind and follow UF Law's grade distribution policy when setting the curve.

Component	Percent of Grade
Three assignments	15%
Class participation	5%
Final exam	80%
TOTAL	100%

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class will start on time and end on time. I expect you to arrive on time. Attendance in class is required by both the ABA and the Law School. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. You are allowed up to **four** absences during the semester. You are responsible for ensuring that you are not recorded as absent if you come in late. Absences beyond **four** will result in a one-third grade reduction for each additional absence (e.g., from A- to B+). If you miss **six** classes or more, you may be dropped from the course. The law school's policy on attendance can be found [here](#).

If you are going to miss a class, you should notify me. You may have access to up to **four** class recordings during the semester. Please email Brian Mitchell (mitchell@law.ufl.edu) to request access and copy me.

UF LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW STANDARD SYLLABUS POLICIES:

Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies, including compliance with the UF Honor Code, Grading, Accommodations, Class Recordings, and Course Evaluations can be found at this link: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/427635/files/74674656?wrap=1>.

ABA OUT-OF-CLASS HOURS REQUIREMENTS: ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every “classroom hour” of in-class instruction. This weekly class is approximately four hours in length, requiring at least **eight hours of preparation** outside of class.

Guidelines for preparation: Feel free to produce a case brief for yourself if you'd like, although you may find taking a less formal set of notes to be more helpful and efficient. In the first year of law school, you should learn not only the subject matter of the particular courses you are taking but also the very basic concepts of law and the basic institutions and processes of the legal system. Be prepared to answer the following questions every day about every case and note you've read the night before:

- Who are the parties of the case?
- What are the facts?
- What level of court decided the case you've read:
 - state or federal court?
 - trial or appellate court?
 - If appellate, intermediate appellate or supreme court?
- What is the procedural posture of the case—that is, at what stage of the civil process was the decision under review that is being challenged made?
- If the case is on appeal, what error was allegedly made in the trial court?
- What is the “holding” of the case?
 - That is, what is the legal proposition on which the court bases its decision?
- What is the rationale of the case?
 - That is, how does the court explain the “holding,” and
 - how does the court explain the application of that holding to the particular facts of the case?
- What “policy” arguments support the result in this case?
 - That is, what are the positive anticipated consequences flowing from the holding and its application?

- What are the counterarguments to the holding and its application?
- Ultimately, considering the court's reasoning and the consequences of the decision, was the case decided "correctly"?

COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

The reading assignments are available on Canvas. They are subject to change from time to time depending on the level of interest and difficulty of each class. You can find the first week's reading assignments below.

PART 1: INTRODUCTION	
1 1/16	<i>Class 1: Introduction & Contract Overview</i> <i>Required Readings: pp 1-18</i>
PART 2: CONTRACT FORMATION	
2 1/18	<i>Class 2: Objective Theory</i> pp 18-33
3 1/22	<i>Class 3: Offer & Acceptance in Bilateral Contracts</i> pp 34-47