

CONTRACTS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW
SPRING 2024 SYLLABUS – LAW 5000 (4 CREDITS)

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 1pm-3pm, in office

Teaching Assistant: Madison (Madi) Errichetti; madison.errichetti@ufl.edu
(available by appointment)

MEETING TIME: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 10:45am-noon

LOCATION: HH355B

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This is a foundational course on the study of Contract Law in the United States. We will continue to build on skills you have learned during the first semester of law school, including fundamentals of how to (i) analyze judicial opinions; (ii) craft legal arguments; (iii) determine which agreements or promises are – or are not – subject to enforcement by law; and (iv) understand contract doctrine and applications.

As a holistic course on the study of foundational Contract doctrine, we will study the elements of an enforceable agreement or promise; defenses and justifications to nonenforcement; conditions for enforcement; breach of contract; and discerning appropriate damages, where relevant; as well as possible rights and obligations of third parties. Throughout the semester we will consider the policy considerations that motivate the legal rules.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- Identify and explain issues involving Contract law
- Identify and apply the rules of Contract doctrine to varying fact patterns
- Craft arguments and provide appropriate counsel analyzing issues of Contract law
- Provide appropriate conclusions based on the identification of issues, application of rules, and analysis thereof

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS:

Problems in Contract Law: Cases and Materials, by Knapp, Crystal, and Prince (10th ed. 2023), part of the Aspen Casebook Series (the “Knapp Casebook”). I may occasionally provide you with some additional articles or cases to assist in our class discussions.

Please be sure to register for the Canvas course page and to have the reading materials with you in print or via 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:

Class sessions will include discussion of the assigned reading; analysis of the continuum of Contract doctrine; and application of that doctrine to hypothetical problems and fact patterns, such as you may encounter in your legal practice. Some of these discussions will include in-class projects with a small group. These are intended to be fun opportunities to collaborate with classmates – as colleagues – on various Contracts problems and projects. Outside of class, you are free to collaborate or to pursue individual study methods as you see fit.

When assigned an in-class group problem or project, you will be asked to collaborate with your group, and to take turns reporting the results of your group discussion to the rest of the class. I will also cold-call students at other times during class, including to discuss the assigned class reading. I will always endeavor to do so in a courteous and respectful manner. In this regard, please treat the classroom, and everyone in it, with the respectful demeanor and professionalism that you would display in a courtroom.

Conducting yourselves in a professional manner also means not engaging in any behavior during class that may distract your classmates, the professor, or any visiting guests. **This includes, but is not limited to, accessing social media, sending e-mails, and any other use of electronic devices during class that does not involve note taking.** Your failure to comply with this policy may be subject to the grade deduction for participation described below, your removal from the classroom, and/or loss of your privilege to use a laptop or other electronic devices in the classroom.

Your grade in this class will be based on your performance on the final exam. I reserve the right to modify or lower your final grade based on excessive absences, lateness, or unprofessional conduct in class. You will also be asked to submit a brief (word-limited) out-of-class writing assignment during the course of the semester for ungraded review by our course TA. Although the writing assignment will not be graded, it must be completed as part of your course requirement, and you will receive feedback intended to assist in your studies.

The final exam will be a **closed-book, essay-style exam on Exemplify**, consistent with the applicable UF and law school policies. The final exam will be four hours long. You can find the [law school policy on exam delays and accommodations](#) on the UF Law website. I will hold an optional review session before the Final Exam. Your grade on the final

exam – and ultimately in the course – will rest largely on your expressed understanding and depth of thought, with an emphasis on quality.

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance in class is required by both the ABA and the Law School. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Students are allowed a maximum of six absences during the course of the semester. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are not recorded as absent if they come in late. A student who fails to meet the attendance requirement will be dropped from the course. The law school's policy on attendance can be found [here](#).

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. Weekly classes are approximately 4 hours in length, requiring at least 8 hours of preparation outside of class including reading the assigned materials, and gathering and studying your notes.

COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Each week, I will confirm the following week's reading assignment by the end of Friday's class, along with any schedule or other modifications. I will also generally post PowerPoint slides before each class session, so that you have them available during class to take notes. Please complete the assigned reading before each class session and come prepared to discuss.

In order to provide you with the best course experience, I will endeavor to avoid assigning an excessive amount of reading. I am setting forth here the list of assignments for the first week.

List of reading assignments for Week 1:

Wednesday, January 17: Knapp pp1-16; Intro to Contract Law

Thursday, January 18: Knapp pp23-46, Mutual Assent

Friday, January 19: Knapp pp49-64, Offer and Acceptance, Unilateral

I look forward to seeing you in class!