

LAW 7107-01 & 7107-03: CONTRACTS I

SYLLABUS

Prof. Bell
Fall 2006

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Contracts I begins our project, continued next semester, of studying the fundamentals of contract law. We will focus on Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code and on the Restatement of Contracts (2nd). Topics covered this semester will include: the bargaining process (with particular emphasis on offer and acceptance); the basis for enforcing promises (with particular emphasis on consideration and promissory estoppel); the requirement of a writing (with particular emphasis on the statute of frauds); and policing the bargain.

Together with Contracts II, Contracts I should prepare you to analyze a wide variety of contract law issues at a general level. Dealing with particular types of contracts, such as intellectual property licenses or commercial leases, may require additional, specialized study. This class should also help to polish your legal reasoning skills and introduce you to some of the practical and ethical concerns of a working attorney.

GRADING

A final exam of essay and multiple-choice questions will count for 75% of your course grade. The essay portion will predominate. It will be partially closed-book; the multiple-choice part will be closed-book. A similarly formatted mid-term exam will count for 15% of your course grade. Participation will count for 10%. You can earn one participation point per class by signing a sheet indicating your readiness to discuss the readings if I call on you, and various points for any ungraded quizzes or projects that I offer. You may lose some or all of the points allowed for classroom discussion if you sign up to speak but demonstrate lack of preparation.

HOW TO CONTACT ME

I encourage you to contact me if you have questions or comments about what we discuss in class or about law school in general. I hold office hours, generally in room 438, each Monday and Wednesday, from 11:00 a.m. until 1 p.m. and 2:15 until 3:45 p.m. Please note, though, that my "office hours" include a brown-bag lunch in the student lounge each Monday from 11:30 until noon and each Wednesday from noon until 12:30. I welcome you to drop by and chat at those times or at other times by appointment. You can also call me at 714/628-2503 or email me at <tbell@chapman.edu>. You can find past exams and other course materials at <www.tomwbell.com/teaching.html> and on reserve in the law school library.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

This syllabus sets forth the readings assigned from the course's primary text, Farnsworth, et al., Cases and Materials on Contracts (6th ed. 2001). You should also read applicable portions of the supplement, Selections for Contracts (2003), as we progress through the course.

Students in section 03 should purchase and refer to Frank Doti, Contract Law Outlines & Flowcharts (2004), as relevant. When he teaches you Contracts II, he will expect you to have become familiar with his supplement. Students in section 01 should regard Doti's text as recommended but optional.

Please note that while I will make a good faith effort to follow this syllabus, I reserve the right to change it during the semester.

	<u>class #</u>	<u>assignment</u>	<u>(# of pages)</u>
I.		Introduction and Overview	
	Class 1:	pp. v-viii; xlii-2; 119-20; 130; 151; 263-64; 299-300	(12)
II.		The Bargaining Process	
	Class 2:	pp. 120-25, 8-14, 125-30	(16)
	Class 3:	pp. 130-51	(21)
	Class 4:	pp. 151-65	(14)
	Class 5:	pp. 165-80; hand in sample contracts	(15)
	Class 6:	pp. 180-94	(14)
	Class 7:	pp. 194-212	(18)
	Class 8:	pp. 212-31	(18)
	Class 9:	pp. 231-51	(20)
	Class 10:	pp. 251-62	(11)
III.		The Basis for Enforcing Promises	
	Class 11:	pp. 1-22	(21)
	Class 12:	pp. 22-39	(17)
	Class 13:	pp. 39-53	(14)
	Class 14:	pp. 53-68	(15)
	Class 15:	pp. 68-86	(16)
	Class 16:	Midterm Exam	(0)
	Class 17:	pp. 86-97, 103-08	(16)
	Class 18:	pp. 108-18	(10)

IV.	The Statute of Frauds	
	Class 19: pp. 263-81	(18)
	Class 20: pp. 281-85, 289-98	(14)
V.	Policing the Bargain	
	Class 21: pp. 299-320, 323-24	(22)
	Class 22: pp. 324-42	(19)
	Class 23: pp. 348-65	(18)
	Class 24: pp. 366-79, 384-88	(18)
	Class 25: pp. 388-413	(24)
	Class 26: pp. 413-32	(20)
	Class 27: pp. 436-45, 449-50	(11)
VI.	Review	
	Class 28: (review)	(0)