

LAW 7107-01 CONTRACTS I

SYLLABUS

Prof. Bell
Fall 2012

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Contract law providing a fundamental framework for our social world, turning mutual consent into binding obligations. Contracts I & II cover the fundamentals of the topic, as embodied in the Restatement of Contracts (2nd), Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code, and other legal authorities. Topics covered this semester, in Contracts I, 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 and specialized study. Both classes will also polish your legal reasoning skills and introduce you to some of the practical and ethical concerns of working attorneys.

GRADING

A final exam of essay and multiple-choice questions will count for 75% of your grade for the course. The essay portion will predominate and will be partially closed-book; you will be allowed use your casebook, any material that I or the academic fellow handed out for the course, and any notes that you or your study group prepared. The multiple-choice part of the exam will be closed-book. A similarly formatted mid-term exam will count for 25% of your course grade.

You class participation may also affect your grade. I will throughout the semester call on students at random to ask questions about the assigned materials and related hypothetical problems. If you are not prepared to engage in such a discussion you may elect to pass. There is no penalty for passing once, but any student who elects to pass more than once or who fails to pass but exhibits inadequate preparation will lose .1 points from his or her final grade each time.

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. Look for me in my office, room 438, each

Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., and on Tuesday from 2:45 until 5 p.m. I'm also often available at lunch on those days, though meetings sometimes intervene; make an appointment if you want to be sure to catch me in. You can also reach me at 714/628-2503 or tbell@chapman.edu. On the appropriate Blackboard site and at www.tomwbell.com/teaching.html you can find course documents, study materials, and past exams.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

This syllabus sets forth the readings assigned from the course's sole required text, Farnsworth, et al., Cases and Materials on Contracts (7th ed. 2008). You may find the optional text, Selections for Contracts (2012), useful as a reference. 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, xlii-2, 116-17, 126, 147, 257, 310-12	(9)
II.		The Bargaining Process	
	Class 2:	pp. 117-22, 14-19, 122-26	(16)
	Class 3:	pp. 126-47	(21)
	Class 4:	pp. 147-61	(14)
	Class 5:	pp. 161-75; hand in found contracts	(15)
	Class 6:	pp. 176-88	(12)
	Class 7:	pp. 188-98	(10)
	Class 8:	pp. 198-205	(8)
	Class 9:	pp. 205-20	(14)
	Class 10:	pp. 220-39	(20)
	Class 11:	pp. 246-56	(9)
III.		The Basis for Enforcing Promises	
	Class 12:	pp. 1-9, 13-29	(23)
	Class 13:	pp. 29-46	(17)
	Class 14:	pp. 46-58	(12)
	Class 15:	Midterm Exam (Tuesday, Oct. 9)	(0)
	Class 16:	pp. 58-71	(14)
	Class 17:	pp. 72-83	(11)
	Class 18:	pp. 83-94	(10)

	Class 19: pp. 94-100, 105-10	(11)
	Class 20: pp. 110-15	(6)
IV.	The Statute of Frauds	
	Class 21: pp. 257-69	(13)
	Class 22: pp. 269-70, 275-80, 283-89	(14)
	Class 23: pp. 294-309	(16)
V.	Policing the Bargain	
	Class 24: pp. 310-21	(12)
	Class 25: pp. 322-36	(15)
	Class 26: pp. 336-52	(15)
	Class 27: pp. 352-64	(13)
VI.	Review	
	Class 28: (review)	(0)