



LawShelf Educational Media

Basics of Contracts Law

Course Description

This course covers the basic principles of contract law. Topics include contract formation, consideration, promissory estoppel, contract defenses and remedies. Each subject is covered in the depth calculated to give students exposure to the most commonly applied areas of law in this field. The course also looks at various common contract provisions and discusses how to adapt them for specific situations.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Determine whether a contract has been formed on given facts by analyzing whether legally binding offer and acceptance have been achieved;
- Apply the contract requirement of consideration to determine whether a contract can be enforced;
- Describe available contract defenses and determine whether they are available in given cases;
- Analyze whether a contract has been successfully performed or breached in a given case;
- Identify the appropriate contract remedies in various breach of contract cases.
- Discuss the preliminary concerns that apply to all contract drafting projects;
- Describe the steps involved in negotiating and drafting contractual agreements;
- Identify and describe the purposes of many common contract provisions.

Final Exam

Grades and credit recommendations are based solely on a final exam. When students are ready to take the final exam, they should register for a LawShelf account (or simply log in, for those with existing accounts). Go to the video-course page and click “Take the Final Exam” and pay the exam fee, where applicable. Students will be given instructions on how to take the exam. All exams are proctored by the Voice Proctor® proctoring system. An overview of the system is [provided here](#) and it requires no training or learning curve. Grades of 70% or above are considered passing grades and qualify for recommended transfer credit.

The final exam is based on the video course modules. Additional resources detailed in this syllabus are helpful for background and for building greater understanding of the course materials.

Inquiries can be made through the LawShelf Contact form on our website by clicking the “email us” button that appears at the bottom of most LawShelf pages. Transcripts can be ordered via Parchment, as detailed on our website.

Case Studies

Many LawShelf video courses include case studies. These do not necessarily teach new material but are meant to demonstrate how the materials covered in the course are applied by various courts. Concepts covered in the case studies are covered on the final exam; so watching the case studies is necessary before taking the exam. However, it is unnecessary to memorize the facts and details of the cases covered in these case studies.

Self-Quizzes

Video-course modules and case studies feature self-quizzes that consist of practice questions on the materials covered in the videos. These questions are presented for the benefit of the student and are **important to review before taking the final exam** because they are similar in style and substance to the questions on the final exam. These quizzes are not graded or monitored and there is no record of how students answer these questions. Students may answer these questions as many times as they like and are encouraged to keep re-taking the quizzes until they have mastered all the questions.

Study Guide

Introductory Videos

These videos provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

The Building Blocks of a Binding Agreement: Offers

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/contract-law-the-building-blocks-of-a-binding-agreement-offers>

The Building Blocks of a Binding Agreement: Acceptance

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/contract-law-acceptance-of-an-offer>

The Building Blocks of a Binding Agreement: Consideration

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/contract-law-the-element-of-consideration-in-contract-enforceability>

Contract Defenses for Lack of Mutual Assent: Mistake, Misunderstanding and Misrepresentation

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/contract-defenses-for-lack-of-mutual-assent-mistake-misunderstanding-and-misrepresentation>

Contract Defenses: Incapacity and Illegality

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/contract-defenses-incapacity-and-illegality/>

Courseware Readings

These courseware readings provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

Read the following sections of “Foundations of Law” courseware:

<https://lawshelf.com/coursewareview>

The following chapters under Contracts, including all subchapters:

- Introduction and Consideration
- Mutual Assent Offer and Acceptance
- Defenses to Formation
- Performance and Breach
- Remedies

Video Course Watching

These videos constitute the main part of the course and are they sources of the questions on the final exam.

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- **Overview of Contract Law**
- **Elements of a Contract: Offer and Acceptance**
- **Consideration**
- **Contract Defenses**
- **Performance and Breach**
- **Introduction & "Preliminary" Contracting**
- **Drafting & Negotiating "the Deal"**
- **Common Contract Clauses: Part 1**
- **Common Contract Clauses: Part 2**
- **Common Contract Clauses: Part 3**
- **Common Contract Clauses: Part 4**
- **Case Study: J. Lilly v. Clearspan Fabric Structures**
- **Case Study: Domingo v. Mitchell**

Supplemental Suggested Readings

These materials enable students to achieve a deeper understanding of the course materials and in applying the course to real-life situations.

Judicial Education Center Contract Law Tutorial

<http://jec.unm.edu/education/online-training/contract-law-tutorial>

Scholfeld v. Hilliard (Second Circuit case on consequential damages)

<https://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-2nd-circuit/1431820.html>

Liquidated Damages in Purchase and Sale Agreements

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/liquidated-damages-in-purchase-and-sale-29125/>