

PL121 Contract Law

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Examine legal aspects of contractual agreements;
2. Assess the various processes involved in contractual agreements, including drafting an offer, submitting an offer, submitting a counteroffer, and accepting an offer;
3. Identify fundamental elements involved in drafting a contract;
4. Explain when it is necessary for a contract to be signed in writing;
5. Analyze situations of contract breach; and
6. Examine third party involvement in a contract.

Learning Unit 1

Objectives: 1, 3

Time	In-Class	Time	Out-Of-Class
Hours 1-2	Lectures: Chapter 1: The Fundamentals of Contracts - The Big Picture Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of contracts • Paralegal's role in contract process • Essential parts of a contract • How a contract generally works • Basic types of contracts 	Hours- 2 hours	Preparation for Discussion: Chapter 1: The Fundamentals of Contracts - The Big Picture
2-4	Class Discussion: Class Discussion topics may be pulled from your text, assigned websites, or other resources as determined by your instructor. Topics may include: Essential components of a contract; Building a contract; Breach of contract.	1-2	Homework/Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Questions – Chapter 1 • Concept Map – Types of contracts • Critical Thinking Exercise – Chapter 1, Developing Critical Thinking Skills exercise
4-5	Lab/Class Activities/Group Assignment: In groups, complete the Drafting Exercise at the end of Chapter 1.	2	Project Research/Preparation: Lesson 1 – speech topic and approval
	Media Ancillaries (<i>required</i>) Ancillaries will be selected by your instructor.		Media Ancillaries (<i>required</i>) Ancillaries will be selected by your instructor.
2	Grading and Assessment <i>Exam Unit 1</i> <i>Participation Grade (discussion/group assignment or Lab participation) See Rubric</i>		Preparation for Assessment: Review Lecture and Chapters Review Completed Homework Create a Study Guide for Exam
			Grading and Assessment Homework/Assignment/Activity Project / Portfolio submission (see rubric) Lesson 1 – speech topic and approval

Learning Unit 2

Objectives: 1, 2, 3

Time		In-Class	Time	Out-Of-Class
Hours 1-2	Lectures: Chapter 2: The Offer Chapter 3: Acceptance Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the offer • Components and terms of an offer • Forms that an offer can take • The relationship between the acceptance and the offer • Mirror image rule and mail box rule • Counteroffers • The role of the U.C.C. in acceptance 	Hours- 5	Preparation for Discussion: Chapter 2: The Offer Chapter 3: Acceptance	
2-4	Class Discussion: Class Discussion topics may be pulled from your text, assigned websites, or other resources as determined by your instructor. Topics may include: Mistaken acceptances; Difference between an offer and a counteroffer; Chapter 3, Skill-Building Application Exercise	1-2	Homework/Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Questions – Chapter 2 • Drafting Exercise – Chapter 2 • Review Questions – Chapter 3 • Drafting Exercise – Chapter 3 	
4-5	Lab/Class Activities/Group Assignment: In groups, complete the Developing Critical Thinking Skills questions at the end of Chapter 3	2	Project Research/Preparation: Lesson 2 – outline and sources	
	Media Ancillaries (<i>required</i>) Ancillaries will be selected by your instructor.		Media Ancillaries (<i>required</i>) Ancillaries will be selected by your instructor.	
2	Grading and Assessment Exam Unit 2 Participation Grade (discussion/group assignment or Lab participation) See Rubric		Preparation for Assessment: Review Lecture and Chapters Review Completed Homework Create a Study Guide for Exam	
			Grading and Assessment Homework/Assignment/Activity Project / Portfolio submission (see rubric) Lesson 2 – outline and sources	

Learning Unit 3

Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4

Time		In-Class	Time	Out-Of-Class
Hours 1-2	Lectures: Chapter 4: Consideration Chapter 5: Formation of Contracts: Issues with Contract Formation Chapter 6: Terms and Provisions Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features of consideration • Specific legal requirements for 	Hours- 2-3	Preparation for Discussion: Chapter 4: Consideration Chapter 5: Formation of Contracts: Issues with Contract Formation Chapter 6: Terms and Provisions	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contract formation • Role of Statute of Frauds • Importance of having definite and certain terms to state the agreement • Terms to include in a contract • U.C.C.'s requirements regarding a contract's term. 		
2-4	Class Discussion: Class Discussion topics may be pulled from your text, assigned websites, or other resources as determined by your instructor. Topics may include: U.C.C.'s impact on consideration in contracts between merchants; Void and voidable contracts; Parol evidence rule; Role of boilerplate provisions; Chapter 6, Developing Critical Thinking Skills	1-2	Homework/Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Questions – Chapter 4 • Review Questions – Chapter 5 • Review Questions – Chapter 6
4-5	Lab/Class Activities/Group Assignment: Divide class into groups, and have each group complete a Drafting Exercise from either Chapter 4, 5, or 6. Have one group from each chapter present to the rest of the class.	2	Project Research/Preparation: Lesson 3 – speech outline
	Media Ancillaries (<i>required</i>) Ancillaries will be selected by your instructor.		Media Ancillaries (<i>required</i>) Ancillaries will be selected by your instructor.
2	Grading and Assessment Exam Unit 3 Participation Grade (discussion/group assignment or Lab participation) See Rubric		Preparation for Assessment: Review Lecture and Chapters Review Completed Homework Create a Study Guide for Exam
			Grading and Assessment Homework/Assignment/Activity Project / Portfolio submission (see rubric) Lesson 3 – speech outline

Learning Unit 4

Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6

Time	In-Class	Time	Out-Of-Class
Hours 1-2	Lectures: Chapter 7: Modifying the Contract Chapter 8: Third-Party Contracts Chapter 9: Performance and Discharge of Obligations Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract modifications • Difference between a modification and a counteroffer, as well as between a modification and a breach • Introduction to the concept of third-party contracts • Reasons for including a third party 	Hours- 2-3 hours	Preparation for Discussion: Chapter 7: Modifying the Contract Chapter 8: Third-Party Contracts Chapter 9: Performance and Discharge of Obligations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> into a contractual agreement Material breach and immaterial breach Concept of conditions 		
2-4	Class Discussion: Class Discussion topics may be pulled from your text, assigned websites, or other resources as determined by your instructor. Topics may include: Rescission, termination, and discharge, and how these differ from modification; Chapter 7 Simulated Law Office Assignment; When breach of contract may be permissible; Chapter 9 Skill-Building Application Exercise	1-2	Homework/Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Questions – Chapter 7 Review Questions – Chapter 8 Review Questions – Chapter 9
4-5	Lab/Class Activities/Group Assignment: Chapter 8 Simulated Law Office Assignment	2	Project Research/Preparation: Lesson 4 – Final
	Media Ancillaries (required) Ancillaries will be selected by your instructor.		Media Ancillaries (required) Ancillaries will be selected by your instructor.
2	Grading and Assessment Exam Unit 4 Participation Grade (discussion/group assignment or Lab participation) See Rubric		Preparation for Assessment: Review Lecture and Chapters Review Completed Homework Create a Study Guide for Exam
			Grading and Assessment Homework/Assignment/Activity Project / Portfolio submission (see rubric) Lesson 4 – Final

Learning Unit 5

Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 5

Time	In-Class	Time	Out-Of-Class
Hours 1-2	Lectures: Chapter 10: Remedies Chapter 11: Researching and Drafting Contracts Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose of remedies Role of the breaching party in remedies Common law remedies Equitable vs. legal remedies U.C.C.'s role in remedies Importance of being able to research and draft effective and accurate contracts Researching contracts Finding forms and state laws 	Hours- 2-3	Preparation for Discussion: Chapter 10: Remedies Chapter 11: Researching and Drafting Contracts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting 		
2-4	<p>Class Discussion:</p> <p>Class Discussion topics may be pulled from your text, assigned websites, or other resources as determined by your instructor. Topics may include: Goals of common law remedies; Various common law remedies; Chapter 10, Simulated Law Office Assignment,; Chapter 11 Developing Critical Thinking Skills; Researching contracts; Finding forms and state laws; Steps in drafting and refining a contract.</p>	1-2	<p>Homework/Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Questions – Chapter 10 Portfolio Assignment – Chapter 10 Simulated Law Office Assignment – Chapter 11 Drafting Exercise – Chapter 11
4-5	<p>Lab/Class Activities/Group Assignment:</p> <p>Chapter 10 Skill-Building Application Exercise</p>	2	<p>Project Research/Preparation:</p> <p>Lesson 5 – Prepare to deliver a 5 to 7 minute speech</p>
	<p>Media Ancillaries <i>(required)</i></p> <p>Ancillaries will be selected by your instructor.</p>		<p>Media Ancillaries <i>(required)</i></p> <p>Ancillaries will be selected by your instructor.</p>
2	<p>Grading and Assessment</p> <p>Final Exam Participation Grade (discussion/group assignment or Lab participation) See Rubric</p>		<p>Preparation for Assessment:</p> <p>Review Lecture and Chapters Review Completed Homework Create a Study Guide for Final Exam</p>
			<p>Grading and Assessment</p> <p>Homework/Assignment/Activity Final Exam Project / Portfolio submission (see rubric) Lesson 5 – Prepare to deliver a 5 to 7 minute speech</p>