

Contracts 1 Syllabus—Fall 2010



Course Description

Contracts 1 explores the legal enforceability of promises, including contract formation, consideration, promissory estoppel, unjust enrichment and the statute of frauds.

Learning Objectives

- a) Fundamental principles of justice in contracts law;
- b) Case analysis, legal reasoning, and problem-solving;
- c) Collaborative learning and public communication skills.

Required Text

Charles L. Knapp, Nathan M. Crystal & Harry G. Prince, Problems in Contract Law: Cases and Materials (6th ed. 2007) ISBN: 978-0-7355-6255-4. Aspen Publishing.

Learning Environment and Procedures

HUSL Policies on attendance, lateness and preparation

The program of instruction at the School of Law is based on an active and informed exchange between instructor and student and between student and student. Regular, prepared class attendance helps develop skills essential to the competent practice of law. A student who violates the attendance policy, including the instructor's specification of class expectation described below, may lose his or her right to take the exam in the course, to receive course credit or may receive other penalties described below and in Academic Rule 108. Persistent or frequent lateness or unpreparedness may also be the basis for reduction of the grade awarded in a course. See Academic Rule 108 for further details.

Contracts 1

Fall 2010

Prof. Szto

Page 2 of 4



Welcome to Contracts!

This semester is preparation for a challenging and rewarding professional life. This includes honing wise judgment, deep analytical skills and superb public communication abilities.

My pedagogy will include case discussions, explanations of legal principles and class exercises, including ungraded quizzes (may be unannounced). Attendance, punctuality, and preparedness are required.

Participation

I will call on students during class. Each of you is a vital part of our community and in addition to sharing case analysis, will have insights and life experiences to share. Some of you are more quiet or talkative than others; however, my aim is to have active participation from as many people as possible. Although I will call on students, I prefer students volunteering. In addition to discussing cases, we will also rely heavily on class exercises, some of which may be collaborative group exercises. Collaboration is essential to effective professional practice, and often leads to confidence-building for other class participation.

To facilitate full participation, each of you will have a **name card**. Display your card in each class. If you misplace your name card, please provide a substitute. Nonuse of your name card will be included in evaluation of your participation. If you cannot hear another speaker, please let the class know.

If you have any special circumstances concerning participation, please also let me know so we can arrange the appropriate accommodations.

Profile Forms

A Profile Form will be available on the class TWEN site after classes begin. Kindly submit one with photograph by Wednesday, September 15. Late submission or non-submission will affect evaluation of your participation. At your discretion, in addition to providing me a hard copy, you may also post this on our TWEN site for class viewing.

Attendance

You may not miss more than four classes. No make-up work will be permitted. We will take attendance beginning Monday, September 13. Attendance will be verified by signatures on sign-in sheets provided by the

Contracts 1

Fall 2010

Prof. Szto

Page 3 of 4



Registrar. Falsification of sign-in sheets is a violation of the Code of Conduct.

If you exceed the number of permitted absences, you may be administratively withdrawn from the course. Accommodations may be made for students who must be absent for religious reasons and in cases of truly compelling hardship. Please inform me of this as soon as possible in person and by email to mszto01@hamline.edu

Laptop use/Technology



Laptops may be used only for taking notes and directed class exercises. Laptop privileges may be withdrawn for violation of the laptop policy. No other technology may be used.

Grading

We will have a practice ungraded midterm. Date TBA.

Your **final grade** will be based on a final examination at the end of the semester. The format of the exam will be essay and multiple-choice. I may adjust your grade up or down a half-step (e.g., B+ to A-) for either superior or inferior class participation (e.g., attendance, punctuality and preparedness; violation of laptop/technology policy).

Feedback

You will have an opportunity to provide formal feedback mid-way and at the end of the course. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or suggestions at any other time!

Office Hours

Office hours will be posted later.

This syllabus is subject to change.

Contracts 1

Fall 2010

Prof. Szto

Page 4 of 4



Assignments

1. Monday, August 23
Chapter 1- Introduction to Contract Law 1-21
Problem 1-1

2. Wednesday, August 25
Chapter 2-Objective Theory of Contracts 21-33
Ray v. William G. Eurice & Bros., Inc

3. Monday, August 30
Chapter 2: Offer and Acceptance in Bilateral Contracts 33-44
.Lonergan v. Scolnick
Izadi v. Machado (Gus) Ford, Inc

4. Wednesday, September 1
Chapter 2 Offer and Acceptance in Bilateral Contracts, cont'd. 44-58
Normile v. Miller
Offer and Acceptance in Unilateral Contracts
Petterson v. Pattberg

[Further assignments to be posted on TWEN; TWEN site available after class begins]