Professor John Weeks
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Contracts I
Fall Semester 2010
Syllabus
(Class meets Saturday mornings from 9:15 to11:15 in Room 101)

Required Course Materials:
Knapp, Crystal and Prince, Problems in Contract Law - Cases and Materials, (6th Ed. 2007 - Aspen) and Knapp, Crystal and Prince, Rules of Contract Law, (Aspen).

Course Goals & Objectives:
A study of the law of contracts in the American legal system primarily is a study of the process by which society facilitates the legal enforcement of agreements for the exchange of performances, such as the rendering of services or the conveyance of goods or real property, typically in exchange for money. The scope of contract law in the modern era has expanded to include enforcement of contract-like obligations in the absence of an agreed exchange, as well. The objective of the course is to develop the students' skill in legal analysis, mainly by means of the study of judicial opinions rendered in concrete legal disputes about contractual rights and obligations.

The first 17 pages of the coursebook provide the student with a fairly sophisticated exposition of the goals and methods of a first year law school course in Contracts.

Attendance Policy:
I will take attendance by circulating the Registrar's attendance sheet at the beginning of each class. Regular attendance is required of all students in the class. Since this course meets only once a week, missing one session is the same as missing an entire week. As a result, missing two classes is presumptively excessive. In the event a student's absences are excessive, I will, in my discretion require make-up work or, in an extreme case, the withdrawal of the student from the course.

Computer Use Policy: Students are permitted to use a laptop computer in the classroom for class-related purposes only.

Testing and Grading:
The grade for the course will be based upon a three-hour closed book examination at the end of the semester.

Assignments

(All page references are to the Knapp, Crystal and Prince coursebook)

Class	**Pages**	**Chapter Topics**
1. Aug. 14 (Read carefully the introductory material pp. 1-17. Class discussion will focus on the case of Ray v. Eurice, p. 23, and the notes & questions following the case.)	1-33	Introduction; The Basis of Contractual Obligation: Mutual Assent.
2. Aug. 21	33-51	Offer and Acceptance – Bilateral Contracts.
3. Aug. 28	51-70	Offer and Acceptance-Unilateral Contracts.
4. Sept 11	71-93	Consideration.
5. Sept. 18	93-122	Consideration; Limiting Offeror's Power to Revoke : Pre-acceptance Reliance.
6. Sept. 25	122-143	Pre-acceptance Reliance; Problem 2-1; Firm Offers; Problems 2-2 & 2-3.
7. Oct. 2	143-167	Battle of the Forms; Problem 2-4.
8. Oct. 9	167-193	Agreements to Agree; Problems 2-5, 2-6 & 2-7.
9. Oct. 16	193-222	Electronic Contracting; Problem 2-8; Promissory Estoppel.
10. Oct. 30	222-253	Promissory Estoppel; Problem 3-1.
11. Nov. 6	253-286	Restitution.
12. Nov. 13	286-323	Promissory Restitution/Material Benefit Rule; Problems 3-2 & 3-3; Statute of Frauds.
13. Nov. 20	323-347	Statute of Frauds; Problems 4-1 and 4-2.