

PLS 280: CONTRACT LAW

FALL 2024

INSTRUCTOR: Jill Justice, Esquire

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OFFICE HOURS: TBD

Course Objectives:

1. Understand why a civil society uses contracts to enforce legal agreements.
2. Learn the basic principles of how a contract is formed, and what it means to perform pursuant to a contract and what it means to breach a contract.
3. Identify legal issues and conduct effective legal research to resolve contract law disputes.
4. Prepare legal documents pursuant to the civil procedure rules that govern contract litigation.
5. Identify ethical issues that arise in contract litigation.
6. Analyze appellate court decisions dealing with contract disputes.

Textbook:

Basic Contract Law For Paralegals, 10th Edition by Jeffrey A. Helewitz. ISBN 978-1-5438-3953-1.

Assignments and Calendar:

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| Week One (8/19): | Contracts Overview / Ethics in Contracts. Read Chapter 1. Review BB Postings. Discussion Board 1. |
| Week Two (8/26): | Offer. Read Chapter 2. Review BB Postings. Complete Case Study 1. |
| Week Three (9/3): | Acceptance. Read Chapter 3. Review BB Postings. Complete Case Study 2. |
| Week Four (9/9): | Consideration. Read Chapter 4. Review BB Postings. Discussion Board 2. |
| Week Five (9/16): | Legality of Subject Matter. Read Chapter 5. Review BB Postings. Complete Case Study 3. |

Week Six (9/23):	Capacity and Intent. Review Chapter 5. Read chapter 6. Review BB Postings. Discussion Board 3.
Week Seven (9/30):	Exam #1.
Week Eight (10/9):	Fall Break. Contract Provisions / Construction. Read Chapter 7. Review BB Postings. Complete Case Study 4.
Week Nine (10/15):	Drafting Assignment # 1. Review BB Postings.
Week Ten (10/21):	Uniform Commercial Code. Read Chapter 8. Review BB Postings.
Week Eleven (10/28):	Third Party Contracts. Read Chapter 9. Review BB Postings. Complete Case Study 5.
Week Twelve (11/4):	Discharge of Obligations. Read Chapter 10. Review BB Postings. Discussion Board 4.
Week Thirteen (11/11):	Remedies. Read Chapter 11. Review BB Postings.
Week Fourteen (11/18):	Drafting Assignment # 2. Review BB Postings.
Week Fifteen (11/25):	Thanksgiving. Course Review.
Week Sixteen (12/2):	Exam # 2.

Grades:

Case studies (5)	25% (5 point each) (25 points)
Discussion Boards (4)	10% (2.5 points each) (10 points)
Drafting Assignments (2)	25% (12.5 points each) (25 points)
Examinations (2)	40% (20 points each) (40 points)

Grading Rubric:

For purposes of grading student performance on case studies, exercises and discussion boards, the Instructor will evaluate the student based upon the following:

- Timely submission of assignments.
- Active and meaningful participation in Discussion Boards.
- Ability to identify the legal issues raised in each case study.
- Ability to trace the legal history of each case study within the court system.
- Ability to summarize the facts of each case study.
- Ability to summarize the legal reasoning and ruling of the court.
- Ability to analyze the court's reasoning and/or ruling based on the case facts.
- Ability to apply the legal concepts of tort law to factual scenarios to reach likely conclusions as to damages and liability.
- Ability to draft a simple contract the terms of which are consistent with class instruction.

Americans with Disabilities Accommodations:

In order for the Instructor to make appropriate accommodations for Students with learning or other disabilities, it is requested that the Student contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center regarding a disability prior to the beginning of the semester at <https://www.wku.edu/sarc/>.

Class Information / Communication:

A copy of this syllabus will be posted on Blackboard for your review. Specific assignments will be posted weekly. The Instructor will communicate other course information via WKU email and the Announcement Board. It is the student's responsibility to regularly monitor Blackboard and email for assignments, deadlines and scheduling and any modifications as the Instructor deems necessary.

Online Participation / Attendance:

Assignments will be posted no later than Tuesday of each week and will be due the following Tuesday unless otherwise indicated. Attendance for online courses requires timely submission of all required work according to the posted specifications. You will receive an “F” in this course if you fail to timely submit more than two required assignments without an Instructor-granted excuse.

Excuses will normally be granted for emergencies. Excuse requests for emergency reasons must be properly documented and the Instructor has discretion to accept or deny excuse requests. Because you have a full week to complete assignments, the Instructor will not accept excuse requests based on technological problems or the Student’s failure to plan accordingly or failure to make proper use of time.

Honor Code:

Academic honesty is expected. Acts of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. At a minimum, acts of academic misconduct will affect your course grade. You may also be subject to additional disciplinary measures as outlined in the WKU Student Handbook. Acts of academic dishonesty include cheating, plagiarism, and inappropriate / unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence. Unless specifically authorized by the Instructor, NO assignments in this course are to be completed with the assistance of another student.

The Instructor will expressly inform you of assignments where it is appropriate to use Artificial Intelligence. The Instructor will tell you specifically what type of A.I. you may use, and you must properly cite it. You may not use A.I. unless you are given express Instructor authorization to do so.

Student Behavior:

The Instructor reserves the right to remove any student from this course for disruptive or disrespectful behavior and/or misuse of Blackboard.