Course Description and Objectives

Not all promises are legally enforceable. This course studies what separates enforceable promises from unenforceable ones. In this course you will learn basic rules and doctrines of contract law. Using a problem-based method, you will practice using these rules and doctrines to solve realistic legal problems. We will also examine how contract law interacts with other legal structures.

Course Materials

The required course materials are:

DOUGLAS LESLIE, CONTRACTS CASEFILE METHOD (2013). This is a collection of online CaseFiles. Purchase this material by creating an account online at www.casefilemethod.com. The CaseFiles will also be used for your spring semester Contracts II class.


i>Clicker+ Student Remote. This student response devise will allow you to answer multiple choice questions in class. It is available for purchase in the law school bookstore. It will also be used for your spring semester Contracts II class.

Assignments

I will distribute lists of reading and problem assignments in class. Before each class period you should read the assigned materials and complete the assigned problems. In addition to reading and completing the assigned problems, many students find it helpful to print out the assigned CaseFile and bring it to class. Further reading instructions are included on the reading assignments handout.

 Occasionally, it may be necessary for me to adjust the assignments. If this happens, I will announce the changes in class as soon as possible.
Attendance

The School of Law requires regular and punctual class attendance by all students. According to the policy, “[a] student who is absent for any reason for more than three class hours per semester credit hour in a course may be dropped from the roll or not allowed to sit for the exam and receive an “F” for the course.” See University of Alabama School of Law, Class Attendance, http://www.law.ua.edu/academics/curriculum/class-attendance/. Failure to attend class may also negatively impact your grade. See Class Participation Section.

At the beginning of the semester, I will pass around a seating chart. You should legibly write your name on the part of the seating chart that identifies your seat. Thereafter, you should sit in the seat you selected. Each class period, I will take roll (either by i>Clicker+ participation or by passing around a hard copy roll). If you are present and sitting in your assigned seat, you should so indicate on the roll. If you do not have your functioning i>Clicker+ on a day when roll is taken by i>Clicker+, you will be deemed unprepared and recorded as absent. Reporting another student as present or using another student’s i>Clicker+ is a violation of the honor code that could subject you to serious sanctions. If you would like to check your attendance for the semester, you may do so by contacting my assistant, Jackie Harrison, at jharrison@law.ua.edu.

At some point during the semester, class may be cancelled. This could happen for a variety of reasons (e.g., weather, instructor illness, etc.). If class is cancelled, a make-up class will be scheduled. I will announce any necessary make-up days in class as soon as possible.

Class Participation

During each class session, we will discuss the problems assigned for that day. To facilitate that discussion, I will call on several students. I expect that you will have completed the assigned problems and reading prior to attending class and will be prepared to discuss the material. See Assignments Section. You are encouraged to volunteer comments and questions.

At points during the class period, I will ask for student responses using the i>Clicker+. I expect that all students will participate in these questions. The i>Clicker system records each student’s individual response for each question.

Consistent with the University of Alabama School of Law Student Handbook, I reserve the right to lower your grade by one grade level (i.e., 0.333) if your class participation shows that you failed to adequately prepare for or participate in class. You will not be penalized for wrong answers, only for lack of preparation or participation. Failure to read and prepare for class, repeated absence, failure to sit in your assigned seat, and failure to participate in i>Clicker+ questions could negatively impact my assessment of your participation, and consequently your grade.
Slides

I typically use PowerPoint slides during class. These slides will be available to students after the class on Westlaw’s TWEN system. For pedagogical reasons, I do not distribute slides before class. The syllabus and reading assignment lists will also be available on TWEN. The password to register for TWEN access is Contracts. If you require further assistance accessing TWEN, please see David Lowe, the Computer Services Librarian.

Recording Devices

The use of recording devices is prohibited without prior written permission.

Exam

Your grade in this class will be based on a final examination, with adjustment made for unacceptable class participation and attendance (as described above). During the two-hour final examination you may use any written material you like. You will not be able to access electronic sources that you have not printed (such as the CaseFiles). The exam will consist of one or more essay questions. The question or questions will be similar to the questions posed by the CaseFiles that we discuss each day in class.

Office Hours and Contact Information

Office: Room #312
Hours: Wednesday and Friday, 10:50 to noon
Telephone: 205.348.2973
E-mail: jhill@law.ua.edu

You may also stop by my office at other times. However, if I am busy, I will ask that you schedule an appointment. You may also schedule an appointment by e-mailing me your preferred appointment time.

Accommodation of Disabilities

The School of Law strives to assure equal access and full participation for people with disabilities. If you require services or accommodations because of a disability, you may notify Associate Dean Claude Arrington at carrington@law.ua.edu or 205.348.6557. This voluntary self-identification allows the University to prepare any necessary and appropriate support services to facilitate your learning.