COURSE SYLLABUS: CONTRACTS – SECTION 1

Spring 2017

Professor Gary E. Sullivan
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Class Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:10 PM and Fridays 10:45-11:55 AM in Room 273

Required Texts: Ayres & Klass, STUDIES IN CONTRACT LAW (8th ed. 2012)
Supplemental cases or handouts: as provided in class

ASSIGNMENTS: From time-to-time, I may assign problems for students to work out and turn in “in class”. Assignments due "in class" must be ready at the beginning of the indicated class. Assignments turned in after the beginning of class will be considered late.

EMAIL: You must check your email regularly for announcements, assignments, and other information relating to your classes and assignments. Please let me know if you want to receive emails at a personal address rather than your law school address.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The primary objective of this course is to provide students a foundation for understanding rules, principles, and policies stemming from and related to contract law.

GRADING: Grades will be assigned consistent with law school policies. For this class, 90% of the grade will be based on the final examination. The remaining 10% will be based on a combination of: (i) being prepared for class, (ii) participating in class discussions, and (iii) turning in complete written assignments on time (collectively, “good faith effort points”). Each student will begin the semester with the same amount of good faith effort points. You may lose points by not preparing for class, not participating when called on, not turning in written assignments on time, and/or turning in written assignments that do not reflect a serious effort on your part.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam will be a mixture of (i) objective questions (multiple choice, true/false or some combination thereof) (ii) essay questions or problems, and/or (iii) targeted short answer questions.
CLASS ATTENDANCE: You are expected to be in class. Please notify me in advance if you will be unable to attend any class.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS: Laptop computer may be used in the classrooms for the purposes of note-taking or in-class exercises. I reserve the right to curtail their use, however, if I believe they are being used for non-class-related activities or are distracting you or other students from our discussion.

IN-CLASS WORK: Many classes will involve working through problems in the textbook or otherwise involving both individual and small group efforts.

ADA POLICY: The Law School is committed to meeting the needs of students with physical, learning, and other disabilities, and provides appropriate accommodations and services tailored to each person’s specific requirements. The Law School’s assistant deans and the University’s Office of Disability Services work together to help individuals with disabilities achieve and maintain individual autonomy. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Grace Lee, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at 348-5750 or glee@law.ua.edu so that the individual’s needs for support services can be evaluated and accommodated in a timely manner.

OFFICE HOURS: My regular office hours are Wednesdays 1:00-3:30 PM. If you would prefer to make an appointment, please feel free to contact me via e-mail.

Topic Coverage:

I. Introduction

II. Bases of Contract Liability - Consideration, Promissory Estoppel and Moral Obligation

III. Agreement - Manifestation of Mutual Assent, Special Problems in Agreement Process, and Unjust Enrichment

IV. Formation Defenses – Statues of Fraud, Capacity, Mistake, Fraud, Duress, Undue Influence, Unconscionability, and Illegality

V. Performance – Scope of Obligation, Good Faith, Warranties, Conditions and Impracticability
VI. Breach and Remedial Responses – Suspending Performance, Damages