

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** Contract Law
- **Code:** LLB43
- **ECTS:** 5
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 4th
- **Teaching Period:** Winter/Spring Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Elective Course

2. Course Description

This course introduces students to the core principles of contract law as developed within the common law tradition. Focusing primarily on English law, it examines how binding agreements are formed, construed, and enforced through case law, judicial reasoning, and established doctrinal categories. Topics include offer and acceptance, consideration, intention to create legal relations, certainty, terms, misrepresentation, duress, frustration, breach, and remedies. Emphasis is placed on the role of precedent and the courts in shaping legal doctrine, as well as the structure and logic of common law reasoning. Throughout the course, students will engage with leading judicial decisions and explore the dynamic between formalism and pragmatism in contract law. Comparisons with civil law systems are integrated to highlight key conceptual divergences and stimulate critical reflection. The course equips students with both a substantive and methodological understanding of the common law of contract, preparing them for further study in comparative obligations and transnational private law.

3. Keywords

Contract Formation, Offer and Acceptance, Consideration, Breach of Contract, Remedies

4. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recall the key elements of contract formation in common law, including offer, acceptance, consideration, intention to create legal relations, and certainty. *(Remembering)*
2. Explain the fundamental doctrines governing contractual obligations and enforcement, such as exclusion clauses, misrepresentation, and frustration. *(Understanding)*
3. Apply relevant legal rules to hypothetical contract disputes, using case law and doctrinal reasoning to support structured arguments. *(Applying)*
4. Analyse leading judicial decisions on contract law, identifying patterns in common law reasoning and distinguishing doctrinal approaches. *(Analysing)*
5. Critically evaluate the enforceability and policy implications of specific contractual terms and remedies, including damages, specific performance, and equitable relief. *(Evaluating)*

5. General Skills to Be Acquired

- Apply knowledge in practice
- Retrieve, analyse, and synthesise data and information
- Adapt to new situations
- Make decisions
- Work in an international context
- Work in an interdisciplinary team
- Generate new research ideas
- Appreciate diversity and multiculturalism
- Respect the natural environment

- Be critical and self-critical
- Advance free, creative, and causative thinking

6. Course Content (Topics)

1. **Foundations of Contract Law in the Common Law Tradition** – Introducing the structure, functions, and sources of contract law, with emphasis on precedent and doctrinal development.
2. **Offer and Invitation to Treat: Identifying the Starting Point of Agreement** – Distinguishing between preliminary communications and binding offers in contractual negotiation.
3. **Acceptance and Consideration: Formation Requirements and Exchange of Value** – Analysing rules on valid acceptance and the role of consideration in enforcing promises.
4. **Intention to Create Legal Relations and Certainty of Terms** – Examining when parties are presumed to intend legal consequences and how courts assess contractual clarity.
5. **Contractual Capacity: Who Can Make a Binding Agreement?** – Exploring the limits on contractual capacity, including minors, mental incapacity, and corporations.
6. **Express and Implied Terms: Structure and Content of the Contract** – Investigating how contractual terms are classified, interpreted, and implied by law or custom.
7. **Exclusion Clauses and Unfair Terms: Limits on Freedom of Contract** – Assessing judicial and statutory controls on clauses limiting liability or allocating risk.
8. **Misrepresentation, Mistake, and Duress: Vitiating Factors in Contract Law** – Analysing how defective consent affects validity and enforceability of contracts.
9. **Frustration, Force Majeure, and Allocation of Risk** – Evaluating doctrines that excuse non-performance in exceptional circumstances.
10. **Breach of Contract and Remedies** – Understanding legal responses to breach, including damages, specific performance, and equitable relief.

7. Teaching Methods

- Lectures.
- Case law workshops.
- Student presentations and structured debate.

- Guided reading and legal reasoning exercises.

8. Assessment Methods

Method	Weight	Description
Final Written Exam	70%	Essay-type and case-based questions
Mid-Term Assignment/Presentation	20%	Individual or group-based
Participation and Engagement	10%	Constructive attendance, preparedness, contribution

Note: A minimum final exam score of 50% is required to pass.

9. A. Ethics

Students are reminded that all submitted work must comply with the University's academic [integrity policy](#). Plagiarism or unauthorised collaboration will result in disciplinary measures.

B. Course Policies

- Attendance is strongly encouraged.
- All assignments must be submitted on time via the designated platform.
- Special accommodations will be made for students with documented learning or health needs in accordance with university policy.

10. Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- **Use in Teaching:** (e.g. digital slides, audiovisual aids, interactive tools like Mentimeter)
- **Use in Communication:** (e.g. E-learning platform, Zoom/Google Meet for office hours)
- **Digital Resources:** (e.g. online legal databases, podcasts, video lectures)

11. Bibliography

- Books/E-books

Adams, A., *Law for Business Students* (Pearson, 2020)

Andrews N, *Contract Law*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge, 2015: Cambridge Univ. Press)

Beale, H. et al., *Contract Law: Cases, Materials and Text* (Hart Publishing, 2019)

Beatson J. (ed.), *Anson's Law of Contracts*, 30th ed. (Oxford Univ. Press, 2016)

Benson P. , *Theory of Contract Law: New Essays* (Cambridge, 2001: Cambridge Univ. Press)

Burrows A, *A Casebook on Contract*, 6th ed. (Oxford, 2018: Hart Publishing)

Burrows, A., *A Casebook on Contract* (Hart Publishing, 2020)

Cartwright, J., *Contract Law: An Introduction to the English Law of Contract for the Civil Lawye*, 3rd ed. (Hart Publishing, 2016)

~~Chen-Wishart M., *Contract Law*, 5th ed. (Oxford, 2015: Oxford Univ. Press)~~

Chen-Wishart, M., *Contract Law*, 7th ed. (e-book). (Oxford University Press, 2022)

Collins H., *Regulating Contracts* (Oxford, 2003: Oxford Univ. Press)

Collins H., *The Law of Contract*, 4th ed. (London, 2003: LexisNexis Butterworths)

Duxbury R., *Contract Law*, 2nd ed. (Sweet & Maxwell, 2011)

Ebers, Martin., Poncibò, Cristina., & Zou, Mimi. (2022). *Contracting and contract law in the age of artificial intelligence*. Hart Publishing.

~~Ewan McKendrick, *Contract Law* (Oxford University Press)~~

Fried C., *Contract as Promise*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge, Mass, 2015: Harvard Univ. Press)

Hugh Beale, *Chitty on Contracts*, 35th ed. (Volume I – General Principles) (Sweet & Maxwell, 2024)

~~McKendrick E., *Contract Law*, 11th ed. (London, 2015: Palgrave Macmillan)~~

McKendrick E., *Contract Law: Text, Cases and Materials*, 11th ed. (e-book) (Oxford, 2024: Oxford Univ. Press)

Merkin KC, R., & Saintier, S. (2023). *Poole's Textbook on Contract Law*. In *Poole's Textbook on Contract Law (e-book)*. Oxford University Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/HE/9780192885098.001.0001>

O'Sullivan J. & Hilliard J., *The Law of Contract* 7th ed. (Oxford, 2016: Oxford Univ. Press)

~~Peel E. (ed.), *Treitel on the Law of Contract* 14th ed. (Sweet & Maxwell, 2015)~~

Peel, E., *Treitel on the Law of Contract*, 16th ed. (e-book) (Sweet & Maxwell, 2025)

~~Poole, J., *Textbook on Contract Law* (Oxford University Press)~~

Schulze, Reiner., Zoll, Fryderyk., & Watson, Jonathon. (2022). *European contract law* (3rd ed.). Nomos ; Beck ; Hart.
https://books.google.com/books/about/European_Contract_Law.html?hl=el&id=Bt1tzgEACAAJ

Smith S., *Atiyah's Introduction to the Law of Contract*, 6th ed. (Oxford, 2005: Clarendon)

Stone, R. & Devenney, J., *The Modern Law of Contract*, (e-book) 15th ed (Routledge, 2025)

Weitzenboeck, E. M. . (2012). *A legal framework for emerging business models dynamic networks as collaborative contracts (e-book)* /. Edward Elgar,.

- Databases

Westlaw UK Academic	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
HeinOnline Academic Core and Kluwer Law International Journal Library	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Beck-online PREMIUM	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Oxford Public International Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Dalloz.fr	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
JURIS Zusatzmodul Hochschulen, BGB Staudinger Online	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Kluwer Law Online (30 journals)	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
IAReporter. Investment Arbitration Report	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Cambridge Core (Law)	https://www.cambridge.org/core/browse-subjects/law
EBSCO	https://research.ebsco.com/c/quc7ji/search/advanced/filters?autocorrect=y&isDashboardExpanded=true
ProQuest Central	https://www.proquest.com/central/topicpaths/AbiGlobal_business/0?accountid=8359#0
Springer link	https://link.springer.com/
Taylor & Francis e-books	https://www.taylorfrancis.com/search?subject=SC_LW
Taylor & Francis e-journals	https://www.tandfonline.com/subjects/law

The Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises 1800-1926 (Gale)	https://go.gale.com/ps/start.do?p=MOML&u=arist&cookieConsent=true&analyticsOptout=false&aty=ip
Wiley online Library	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/showPublications?startPage=&ConceptID=85