

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** Contract Law
- **Code:** LLB7
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 1st
- **Teaching Period:** Spring Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

This course explores the legal framework governing contracts—legally binding agreements between two or more parties operating within the realm of private law, which give rise to enforceable obligations. The subject matter is approached through case-oriented and comparative analysis, emphasising key concepts to civil and/or common law traditions. The course follows the full life cycle of a contract, from negotiation and formation to performance, breach, and available remedies. In addition to general principles, it examines selected types of specific contracts to illustrate how these principles are applied in practice. Alongside the study of selected national legal systems, the course analyses the body of European contract law, including both primary and secondary EU legislation. It also covers major instruments of transnational contract law,

with particular attention to the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG). Furthermore, the course addresses the increasing relevance of soft law instruments, such as the UNIDROIT Principles, the Principles of European Contract Law (PECL), and the Draft Common Frame of Reference (DCFR).

3. Keywords

Agreement, Comparative Private Law, CISG, PECL, DCFR, Transnational Contract Law

4. Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Identify** the core principles governing contract formation, performance, and breach in both civil and common law traditions. (*Remembering*)
2. **Explain** key differences in contractual doctrines such as pre-contractual liability, interpretation, and unforeseen circumstances across selected jurisdictions. (*Understanding*)
3. **Apply** foundational rules of contract law to hypothetical scenarios involving domestic and cross-border transactions. (*Applying*)
4. **Analyse** the structure and content of relevant EU legislation as well as major transnational instruments such as the CISG. (*Analysing*)
5. **Evaluate** the legal and practical implications of harmonising contract law at European and international level. (*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. **What is a “Contract” - The Role and Function of Contract Law in Private Legal Systems** – Exploring the economic, social, and legal purposes of contracts as well as contract law across jurisdictions.
2. **Civil Law Systems, Common Law Systems, and Mixed Systems** – Analysing sources of contract law and key historical developments in selected legal traditions.
3. **European Contract Law:** Examining the basic sources at EU Primary and Secondary Level
4. **Pre-contractual Phase: Negotiating an Agreement, Pre-Contractual Documentation, Liability** – Analysing the stage of negotiations, the respective duties, especially the good faith principle and the consequences of violating these duties.
5. **Offer and Acceptance: Models of Contract Formation and Consensus** – Offer or invitation to treat, and electronic contracting.
6. **Agency:** Examining the concept of **representation**, focusing on the legal mechanisms that allow a person to act on behalf of another, thereby binding the latter in legal relationships with third parties.
7. **Consideration, Cause, and Form: Validity Requirements in Comparative Perspective** – Contrasting the doctrine of consideration with causal and formal requirements in civil law.
8. **Contract Validity:** Examining the fundamental grounds for invalidity, namely lack of capacity to contract, lack of form, illegality or violation of law, defects of consent (mistake, fraud, duress), and unfair terms
9. **Contract Interpretation:** Analysing how Contracts Are Interpreted to Determine the Parties’ Intentions

10. **Performance and Non-Performance: Obligations, Delay, and Breach** – Analysing primary and secondary obligations, and the effect of partial or defective performance.
11. **Force Majeure, Hardship, and Contractual Risk Allocation** – Termination or alteration of a contract in the event of a fundamental change of circumstances?
12. **Remedies for Breach: Damages, Specific Performance, and Termination** – Examining available remedies under domestic law and transnational instruments.
13. **Contracting Across Borders: Case Studies in International Commercial Practice** – Applying doctrinal knowledge to real-world examples involving CISG, Incoterms, and model clauses.

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
Bussani, M., & Mattei, U. (2012). *The Cambridge Companion to Comparative Law. The Cambridge Companion to Comparative Law*, (e-book).
<https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139017206>

Ebers, M., Poncibò, C., & Zou, M. (Eds.). (2022). *Contracting and contract law in the age of artificial intelligence* (e-book). Hart Publishing.

Jimenez, M. J. . (2021). *Contract law : a case & problem-based approach* (e-book). Wolters Kluwer.

Kadner Graziano, Thomas., Booth, Christopher., Merrett, Eleanor., & Harrison, Rachel. (2025). *Comparative contract law : exercises in comparative methodology (e-book)*. Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://www.elgar.com/shop/gbp/comparative-contract-law-fourth-edition-9781035341436.html>

McKendrick, E. (2023). *Contract law* (15th ed.). Hart Publishing.

O'Sullivan, Janet. (2024). *O'Sullivan & Hilliard's The law of contract (e-book)*. Oxford University Press.

Peel, E., & Treitel, G. H. (2020). *The law of contract* (15th ed.). Sweet & Maxwell, Thomson Reuters.

Robertson, A., & Paterson, J. (2025). *Principles of Contract Law* (7th ed.) (e-book). Thomson Reuters . <https://store.thomsonreuters.com.au/principles-of-contract-law-7th-edition-ebook/productdetail/131747>

Schulze, Reiner., Zoll, Fryderyk., & Watson, Jonathon. (2022). *European contract law (e-book)*. Nomos ; Beck ; Hart.

Smits, J. M. (2021). *Contract law: A comparative introduction* (3rd ed.). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Stone, R., & Devenney, J. (2022). *The modern law of contract* (14th ed.). Routledge.

Yalim, A. N. K. (2019). Interpretation and Gap Filling in International Commercial Contracts. In *Interpretation and Gap Filling in International Commercial Contracts (e-book)*. Intersentia. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781780689760>

Zumbansen, P. (2021). The Oxford Handbook of Transnational Law. In *The Oxford Handbook of Transnational Law (e-book)*. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/OXFORDHB/9780197547410.001.0001>

- 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