

Contracts Syllabus

Course Information Overview

Course Name	Contracts A1 (5409/16970)
Semester	Fall
Year	2025
Class time(s) and day(s)	9:00a-10:30a MWTH
Class Location	220
Casebook	Templin & Spratt, Contracts – A Modern Casebook, Third Edition (digital bundle permissible) (CB)
Mode of Instruction	Face to Face
Name of Instructor	Professor Leah Fowler (she/her)
Office	430F
Contact Information	lfowler@central.uh.edu/ 713-743-8824(o)
Office Hours	TBD
Faculty Assistant	TBD
Final Exam	TBD
Final Exam Mode	Closed Book, Closed Note

Course Description and Objectives

At the end of this course, the student should be able to (1) Explain the definition of a contract, its role in society, and the basis for enforcing promises, including promissory estoppel and quasi-contract;(2) Identify and explain the required elements of contract formation—including offer, acceptance, and consideration—as well as alternative doctrines supporting enforceability;(3) Analyze how courts interpret contracts, including the use of doctrines and tools such as the parol evidence rule and rules of construction;(4) Apply relevant statutory and common law principles, including UCC Article 2 and the Restatement (Second) of Contracts, to evaluate contract issues; and (5) Articulate and, where appropriate, calculate the remedies available for breach of contract, including expectation, reliance, restitution, and equitable remedies.

Our materials will mirror the ones used by the other half of your Section A cohort in Professor Guggenberger's class. Though the pace of the classes may vary, the textbook, general content and organization, and exam will be the same. Section A students are welcome to work and study together, and you may attend review sessions with any tutors you prefer or that fit your schedule.

Course Requirements and Grading

I expect you to participate actively in class, write three short practice question answers, work collaboratively on a contract drafting exercise, and pass the midterm and final exams. Your grade will be based primarily on the midterm and final exam. However, repeated failure to prepare for class or work with your peers on the group project can negatively impact your grade. The practice questions are not graded, but failure to submit them on time can also

negatively impact your grade. Attendance is required and expected; excessive absences may render you ineligible to receive credit for the course.

Class Preparation and Participation

Attendance

We will take attendance using [Google Forms](#). I will share the password at the beginning of class. If you arrive late, ask me for the password after class. Falsifying your attendance record is an honor code violation. Class begins promptly at 9:00a. Arriving on time and prepared to learn is a core expectation and demonstrates your professionalism.

Modes of Assessment

The midterm exam is 10% of your grade.

The final exam is 90% of your grade.

I may raise or lower your grade based on participation. See section on participation.

Assigned Practice Questions

You will be assigned to panels during the semester. Students on panel for the day will answer one question from the Problem Solving and Analysis section of the chapter using IRAC. A tutor will assign one of the chapter's questions to you. You will upload your answer to Canvas (under "Discussions"). The answers are due by 9:00a the day of class. Tutors will provide public feedback on your answers so all students can learn from what worked well and what could be improved. These questions count as completion grades. You are not allowed to submit late responses.

All students are encouraged to complete Problem Solving and Analysis problems on their own to prepare for the exam, but only students on the panel should submit their assigned answers on Canvas. I encourage you to discuss your practice answers with the Tutors—they will provide feedback and answer questions.

Participation

Participation consists of pre-class quizzes, a contract negotiation project, practice questions, and class preparedness.

Each class, there will be a pre-class quiz covering the material for that day. The questions are from the Questions for Review at the end of each chapter. Before each class, I expect you to complete the pre-class quiz. This is ungraded but will count for completion. While you are allowed and encouraged to retake this quiz as many times as you'd like, your first attempt must be completed prior to 9:00a on the day of class.

I want this course to be interactive. I appreciate your thoughts, questions, and contributions. We will use discussion panels in lieu of a traditional cold-call system to facilitate our class discussion. Four students will be assigned to the discussion panel per class, meaning each student should expect to be on a panel approximately three times during the semester. Members of the discussion panel will be my "go-to" people for that day; however, I reserve

the right to call on any member of the class. All students are welcome and encouraged to volunteer answers and ask questions regardless of whether they are on the day's panel. You will be notified in advance about which days you are assigned to panels.

The Law Center allows instructors to raise or lower grades one-third of a letter grade (e.g., from a B to a B+ or A- to B+) on the basis of class participation. If you do not complete your practice question, do not work with your teammates to complete the negotiation project, or are unprepared for class three times, I reserve the right to lower your grade.

Readings

I try to keep readings manageable. Readings or supplementary materials marked as optional are optional; even for a good grade, you are not expected to study these.

Communication

Please check and use your CougarNet email for communication related to this course. To access your CougarNet email, log in to your Microsoft 365 account with your CougarNet credentials. Visit University Information Technology (UIT) for instructions on how to connect your CougarNet email on a mobile device. Please also be sure that you have turned on notifications on Canvas.

Tutors

Students who excelled in past courses serve as tutors for this class. I strongly encourage you to consult tutors throughout the semester to clarify topics, develop your skills in briefing cases, and prepare for exams.

Office Hours

I am available for office hours at a time to be determined based. No appointment is necessary during these times; just visit my office (430F). You can also schedule a meeting with me (in person or via Zoom) by emailing me at lfowler@central.uh.edu. Your questions are always welcome, and I am happy to help with any concerns you might have—whether they are related to the class or life and law school more generally.

Feedback and Evaluations

I welcome and appreciate feedback from you at any time. Formal class evaluations often come too late to adjust the courses they evaluate. Please don't wait until it is too late. Please let me know what you like and what I can improve. If you are uncomfortable sharing these thoughts with me directly, you may communicate them via the tutors. I will also provide you with an opportunity to provide feedback via an anonymous Canvas quiz approximately six weeks into class.

Syllabus Changes

Please note that I may need to modify the course syllabus during the semester. I will announce such changes as quickly as possible through in-class announcements, email, and Canvas.

Assignments

Unless stated otherwise, all page references are to our casebook (CB) Templin & Spratt, Contracts – A Modern Casebook, Third Edition.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE. A FINAL VERSION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON CANVAS BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.

Week	Class	Date	Topic	Class Preparation	Optional Assignments
1	1	M 8/25/2025	Introduction and Sources of Contract Law	Syllabus CB, 1-30	
	2	W 8/27/2025	Mutual Assent and Objective Theory	CB, 33-51	
	3	Th 8/28/2025	Making the Offer	CB, 55-78	Documentary, Pepsi. Where's My Jet (Netflix) Supplemental Exercise: Analogizing and Distinguishing (Canvas)
2	X	M 9/1/2025	Labor Day Holiday – NO CLASS		
	4	W 9/3/2025	Acceptance and the Negotiation Process	CB, 81-104	Did Monster Energy Make A 'Dope' Contract With DJ Z-Trip? Nope , Forbes.com
	5	Th 9/4/2025	Irrevocable Offers	CB, 109-131	Supplemental Exercise: Counseling a Client (Canvas)
3	6	M 9/8/2025	Mutual Assent and the Battle of the Forms	CB, 137-156	YouTube Video UCC Battle of the Forms
	7	W 9/10/2025	Consideration	CB, 159-179	
	8	Th 9/11/2025	Conditional Gifts	CB, 183-192 Curtis v. Anderson	Supplemental Exercise: Analyzing Consideration (Canvas)
4	9	M 9/15/2025	Consideration Sub-Issues	CB, 195-218	
	10	W 9/17/2025	Contract Modification and the Consideration Requirement	CB, 223-242	
	11	Th 9/18/2025	Promissory Estoppel	CB, 245-261	Additional Resource: Promissory Estoppel Analytic Framework Worksheet
5	12	M 9/22/2025	Restitution	CB, 265-281	
	13	W 9/24/2025	Statute of Frauds	CB, 285-314	
	14	Th 9/25/2025	Exercise	TBD	
6	15	M 9/29/2025	Defenses: Incapacity	CB, 319-342	

	16	W 10/01/2025	Defenses: Duress and Undue Influence	CB, 347-367	Wolf v. Marlton
	17	Th 10/02/2025	Defenses: Misrepresentation and Nondisclosure	CB, 371-390	Stambovsky v. Ackley
7	18	M 10/06/2025	Defenses: Unconscionability	CB, 395-410	
	19	W 10/08/2025	Defenses: Public Policy and Illegality	CB, 415-434	FTC Final Rule Banning Noncompete Clauses Ryan v. FTC
	20	Th 10/09/2025	Excuses: Mistake	CB, 439-461	
8	21	M 10/13/2025	Excuses: Changed Circumstances	CB, 465-484	
	22	W 10/15/2025	MIDTERM	MIDTERM	MIDTERM
	23	Th 10/16/2025	Parole Evidence Rule	CB, 489-513	
9	24	M 10/20/2025	Interpreting Ambiguous Terms	CB, 519-541 White City v. PR Restaurants	Indiana Court Rules Burritos and Tacos Qualify as Sandwiches, Reason.com
	25	W 10/22/2025	Implied Terms	CB, 547-569	
	26	Th 10/23/2025	Exercise	TBD	
10	27	M 10/27/2025	Breach of Contract	CB, 573-606	
	28	W 10/29/2025	Anticipatory Repudiation	CB, 611-628	
	29	Th 10/30/2025	Conditions to Performance	CB, 633-653	Supplemental Exercise – Conditions to Performance
11	30	M 11/03/2025	Introduction to Remedies and Economic Theory	Markovits and Rauterberg, 3-32 (Canvas)	
	31	W 11/05/2025	Remedies and the Expectation Interest	CB, 657-688	
	32	Th 11/06/2025	Limits: Certainty, Causation, Foreseeability, and Mitigation	CB, 693-718	
12	33	M 11/10/2025	Other Damages	CB, 723-738	
	34	W 11/12/2025	UCC Remedies	CB, 743-772	
	35	Th 11/13/2025	Specific Performance & Other Equitable Remedies	CB, 777-797	
13	36	M 11/17/2025	Alternatives to Expectation:	CB, 801-823	

			Reliance and Restitution		
	37	W 11/19/2025	Third-Party Rights	CB, 827-852	
	38	Th 11/20/2025	Final Review		
14	X	M 11/24/2025	Thanksgiving Holiday		
	X	W 11/26/2025			
	X	Th 11/27/2025			
14.1	39	W 12/01/2025	No Class		

Attendance Policy

As noted in the [student handbook](#), the Law Center has a minimum 80% attendance policy for students. Absences in violation of law center policy may be sanctioned by a reduction in the final grade or, in egregious cases, by involuntary withdrawal from the class. I will take attendance using Google Forms. Falsifying your attendance record is an honor code violation.

I expect you to come to class unless you have a legitimate reason for not doing so. Please note that you are responsible for managing your absences from class and ensuring that your total number of absences does not exceed the threshold for the class.

Out of consideration for your colleagues, please do not come to class if you are ill. If you miss class due to illness or for any other reason, please get the notes from your colleagues. If someone asks you for notes for a missed day of class, please share with them. Recordings will be available on Canvas. If you still have questions after reviewing these resources and consulting with a tutor, you may discuss what you missed with me. Please do so as soon as possible to ensure you can catch up with the rest of the class.

Remote Presence

I do not allow remote participation in my class. I will record each class and post a link to Canvas. If you miss a class, please watch the recording.

Recording of Class

Students may not record all or part of class, live stream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures without my advanced written consent. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform.

I will record classes, upload them to mediasite, and provide a link to them on Canvas. Students may use these recordings for their own studying and notetaking, but they are not authorized to be shared with anyone without my prior written approval. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral and may result in disciplinary action.

Honor Code

The [UHLC Honor Code](#) applies to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please inquire if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed a pledge to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.

Professionalism

Our classroom is a learning space where each student is treated with respect and dignity and where everyone is provided the opportunity to participate, contribute, and succeed. In this course, all students are welcome regardless of background or identity. I encourage you to speak up and share your views appropriately throughout the semester. I also expect every class member to remember that in this learning environment, we will engage respectfully and with professionalism toward each other. Please review the [Texas Lawyer's Creed](#).

AI-Generated Text

You may use AI-generated text tools for all purposes in this course except the final exam. However, I strongly encourage you to draft all initial contracts and practice question answers without AI assistance.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources

The University of Houston has many resources to support students' mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App. UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment, and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops, and connections to other support services on and off campus. For assistance, visit uh.edu/caps, call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let's Talk location in-person or virtually. Let's Talk is a daily, informal, confidential consultation with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

[The Student Health Center](#) offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

[The A.D. Bruce Religion Center](#) offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being.

Need Support Now? If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454 or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org.

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct

Per the [UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy](#), all of your instructors (including me) are “responsible employees” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the [Title IX website](#).

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment, or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure the timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the [website](#), calling 713-743-5400, or emailing jdcenter@central.uh.edu.