

Contracts Syllabus

Course Information Overview

Course Name	Contracts C1 (5409/10683)
Semester	Fall
Year	2026
Class time(s) and day(s)	10:30a -12:00p MTW
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
Office	430F
Contact Information	lfowler@central.uh.edu / 713-743-8824(o)
Office Hours	12:00 – 1:00p W or by appointment
Faculty Assistant	Mariam Zanjani (nhajazi3@Central.UH.EDU)
Final Exam	TBD
Final Exam Mode	Closed Book, Closed Note

Tutors

Name	Email
	@CougarNet.UH.EDU
	@CougarNet.UH.EDU
	@CougarNet.UH.EDU
	@CougarNet.UH.EDU
	@CougarNet.UH.EDU
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Course Description and Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain what a contract is, why contract law enforces some promises but not others, and how contracts function in society.
2. Identify and analyze the requirements for contract formation, including offer, acceptance, and consideration.
3. Explain and apply alternative bases for enforcing obligations, including promissory estoppel, restitution, and quasi-contract.
4. Interpret contractual language using relevant common law and statutory doctrines, including the parol evidence rule, rules of construction, the Restatement (Second) of Contracts, and UCC Article 2.
5. Analyze breach of contract claims and determine the remedies available, including expectation damages, reliance damages, restitution, specific performance, and other equitable remedies.

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 final exam. Your presumptive course grade will be based on the final exam. However, repeated failure to prepare for class, submit required practice-question answers on time, or work with your peers on the contract-drafting exercise may negatively affect your grade through the participation adjustment described below. Attendance is required; absences in excess of Law Center policy may affect your grade or your ability 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 10:30a. Arriving on time and prepared to learn is a core expectation and demonstrates your professionalism.

Modes of Assessment

The final exam determines your presumptive course grade.

I may raise or lower your final course grade by one-third of a letter grade based on participation, as described below.

Assigned Practice Questions

You will be assigned to panels during the semester. These assignments will be available as a spreadsheet on Canvas. 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 6:00p the day before class. Tutors will provide public feedback on your answers so all students can learn from what worked well and what could be improved. Please label your contribution "Last Name, First Name, Chapter #, Question #" and paste the text directly into the discussion field—no attachments. Your answers are not graded, but failure to submit them on time can negatively impact your grade. Late responses will not be accepted.

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 individualized feedback and answer questions. They all performed well in their first semester classes and are excellent resources.

Participation

Participation consists of pre-class quizzes, a contract-drafting exercise, practice questions, and class preparedness.

Each class will include a pre-class quiz covering that day's material. 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. These quizzes are ungraded, but completion counts toward participation. 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 10:30a 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 class discussion. Three or 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 by one-third of a letter grade (e.g., from a B to a B+ or from A- to B+) based on class participation.

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 make sure that you have turned on notifications in 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 on Wednesdays from 12:00 – 1:00p. No appointment is necessary during this time; just visit my office (430F). While it's never required, I encourage you to email me your questions or the topics you are struggling with before attending office hours so that, where helpful and appropriate, I can prepare materials to assist your understanding. You can also schedule a meeting with me outside of this designated time (in person or via Zoom) by emailing me at lfowler@central.uh.edu (please suggest three time slots that work for you). 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 to life and law school more generally.

Feedback and Evaluations

I welcome and appreciate your feedback 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. 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 an opportunity to give 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 to adapt to our pace, class needs, or to incorporate your feedback. I will announce such changes as quickly as possible through Canvas, in-class announcements, and email.

Assignments

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

PLEASE NOTE: ALL CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON CANVAS ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SEMESTER.

Attendance Policy

As noted in the [student handbook](#), the Law Center has a minimum attendance requirement of 80%. 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 attend class unless you have a legitimate reason not to. 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 your notes 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, livestream all or part of class, or make or distribute screen captures without my advance 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 note-taking, 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 with each other respectfully and professionally. 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, 8:00a - 4:30p, 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 available academic accommodations and support. Students seeking academic accommodations should 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.