



COURSE OUTLINE

LAW203 Contracts A

Course Coordinator: Dale Mitchell (dmitchell@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Law and Society

2021 | Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

The law of contracts underpins commercial life and hence this course is essential to your understanding of the way the law protects economic activity and as a foundation for some of your later courses. Contracts A is the first of two courses examining the Australian law of contract. Taken together, they cover the 'life-cycle' of contracts from their formation to their performance or breach. In this course you will consider rules concerning the formation of contracts, their terms and meaning. You will develop your skills of case reading and analysis.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Lecture – On campus lecture - 2 hours in weeks 1-6 and 8-13.	2hrs	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop – On campus tutorial - 1 hour in weeks 2-6 and 8-13.	1hr	Week 2	11 times

1.3. Course Topics

This course provides a critical introduction to contract law. It explores the various elements which relate to the formation of a legally-binding contract, the legal validity of parties to a contract, and the means through which contractual terms are established.

Week/Module What key concepts/content will I learn?

1	Introduction to Contract Law
2	Formation – Agreement
3	Formation – Agreement (cont.) and Intention to Create Legal Relations
4	Formation – Certainty, Completeness and Formalities
5	Formation – Consideration
6	Formation – Recap and Revision
8	Parties: Capacity, Privity and Assignment
9	Content – Establishing Contractual Terms
10	Content – Establishing Contractual Terms
11	Content – Construction of Terms and Exclusion Clauses
12	The nature of contract and theories of contract law
13	Exam information / revision

Please note the timing and arrangement of topics may change. As is the norm, tutorials usually explore the content covered in the previous week of lectures (i.e. Week 1 lecture topic discussed in the Week 2 tutorial; Week 2 lecture topic discussed in the Week 3 tutorial, etc.).

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Analyse facts to identify legal issues raised by those facts.	Empowered
2 Explain the correct principle(s) of law to resolve a factual problem.	Knowledgeable
3 Apply skill of legal reasoning utilising case law and knowledge of Australian contract law to resolve contract disputes based on real world fact scenarios.	Empowered

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

LAW102 and enrolled in any Law Program except AR391

5.2. Co-requisites

LAW101 and enrolled in AR391

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Beginning in week two, students will have an opportunity to receive formative feedback on academic progress, by participating in the tutorial program. Weekly tutorial questions are posted at the commencement of the semester, and students have the opportunity to complete these questions and receive both peer and instructor review of this work. Tutorial questions are designed to model real-world advice scenarios, and scaffold students towards developing responses to law assignments and exams.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Quiz/zes	Individual	20%	30 minutes	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	30%	1800 words	Week 10	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	50%	2 hours plus 30 minutes preparation time	Exam Period	Exam Venue

All - Assessment Task 1: Contract law online quiz

GOAL:	The goal of this assessment is to assess your ability to engage in legal analysis of simple fact scenarios based on your understanding of the legal principles governing contract law.	
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes	
FORMAT:	Blackboard Quizzes. You will have the opportunity to complete six quizzes, and of these, the four quizzes you score highest in will be counted towards your mark for this assessment. Each of these quizzes is worth a maximum of 5% of your final grade. Quizzes are generally open for a period of 24 hours and are to be completed prior to commencement of the tutorial covering the material. Ordinarily, the quizzes will be open for completion from 8am on the day prior to your scheduled tutorial, and will remain open until 8am the following day. Ordinarily quizzes will be conducted in weeks 4-6 and 9-11. Any alteration to these dates will be posted on Blackboard.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstrates a capacity to identify legal issues
	2	Applies principles derived from case law and/or statute to provide appropriate legal advice by selecting the most appropriate response
	3	Where relevant, demonstrates an understanding of the wider principles of contract law 1 2 3

All - Assessment Task 2: Contract law advice

GOAL:	The goal of this assessment is to mirror real world practice by testing your ability to resolve a multi-issue legal problem using the knowledge learnt so far in the course, as well as your skills of legal reasoning involving case analysis and statutory interpretation (if relevant).	
PRODUCT:	Written Piece	
FORMAT:	This is an individual assignment of 1800 words presented in the format of a memorandum to a senior partner.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Correct identification of legal issues
	2	Applies principles derived from case law and/or statute to provide appropriate legal advice by selecting the most appropriate response
	3	Where relevant, demonstrates an understanding of the wider principles of contract law

All - Assessment Task 3: Open book examination

GOAL:													
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled												
FORMAT:	This is an individual assessment. You will have two hours plus 30 minutes preparation time to complete the assessment. You may use any materials to construct an answer to two unseen legal problems drawn from any part of the course. There will be a 'problem' component focusing on practical problem solving, and a 'theory' component focusing on your understanding of the principles and theories underlying Australian contract law.												
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>No.</th><th></th><th>Learning Outcome assessed</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Correct identification of legal issues and case law appropriate to resolve issues</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Able to organise an answer that demonstrates the skill of legal analysis</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Demonstrates a developed understanding of the theories and principles governing and underlying Australian contract law</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Correct identification of legal issues and case law appropriate to resolve issues		2	Able to organise an answer that demonstrates the skill of legal analysis		3	Demonstrates a developed understanding of the theories and principles governing and underlying Australian contract law	
No.		Learning Outcome assessed											
1	Correct identification of legal issues and case law appropriate to resolve issues												
2	Able to organise an answer that demonstrates the skill of legal analysis												
3	Demonstrates a developed understanding of the theories and principles governing and underlying Australian contract law												

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHER
Required	Willmott, Christensen, Butler, Dixon [Textbook / WCBD]	2018	Contract Law	Oxford University Press
Required	Willmott, Christensen, Butler, Dixon [Casebook]	2018	Contract Law Casebook	Oxford University Press

8.2. Specific requirements

Nil

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manly and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au

