



ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data					
Module Title	Obligations I (Contract Law)				
Module Code	UJXU54-20-3	Level	3	Version	2
UWE Credit Rating	20	ECTS Credit Rating	10	WBL module?	No
Owning Faculty	Business and Law	Field	Law: Non Modular		
Department	Law: BILP	Module Type	Unit of Assessment		
Contributes towards	Graduate Diploma in Law				
Pre-requisites	None	Co- requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None	Module Entry requirements	N/A		
First CAP Approval Date	QSC 1/10/2008	Valid from	September 2009		
Revision CAP Approval Date	1 June 2016	Revised with effect from	September 2016		

Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	<p><u>Knowledge and Understanding</u> At the end of this subject students will be able to demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a sound knowledge and understanding of the concept of a contract;</li> <li>2. an appreciation of the place of Contract Law in the Law of Obligations;</li> <li>3. a sound knowledge and understanding of the factors and theories which have influenced and continue to influence the development of Contract Law;</li> <li>4. a sound knowledge and understanding of the principles governing the formation, content and discharge of contracts; the operation of principal vitiating factors and remedies for breach of contract;</li> <li>5. an appreciation of some of the key debates on the reform of Contract Law.</li> </ol> <p>This knowledge and understanding is developed through lectures, seminars and workshop activities and is assessed in both the coursework and the examination.</p> <p><u>Intellectual Skills</u> At the end of this subject students will be able to demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. an ability to apply, highlighting areas of uncertainty, the principles of Contract Law to a range of factual scenarios;</li> <li>2. skills of synthesis;</li> <li>3. an ability to critically analyse and evaluate existing principles of Contract Law;</li> </ol>

	<p>4. an ability to make reasoned proposals for reform of this area of law or to justify the retention of the current law</p> <p><u>Subject specific skills</u> At the end of this subject the following subject specific skills will have been developed and enhanced</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the ability to present reasoned legal argument, both orally and in writing;</li> <li>2. the ability to conduct effective library-based legal research;</li> <li>3. the ability to make effective use of ICT for legal research;</li> <li>4. the ability to apply existing law to problem situations;</li> <li>5. the ability to critically analyse and evaluate primary and secondary legal materials</li> </ol> <p>These skills are developed through preparation for, and activities at, weekly seminars and workshops, and also form part of the independent research needed to complete any coursework which is set.</p> <p><u>Transferable Skills</u> At the end of this subject the following subject specific skills will have been developed and enhanced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ICT skills;</li> <li>2. Study management skills;</li> <li>3. Oral and written communication skills;</li> <li>4. Team working skills;</li> </ol> <p>Students will also be encouraged to adopt a pro-active approach to legal learning</p> <p>Transferable skills that are developed include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. oral and written communication skills: oral communication is developed through and evidenced by the preponderance of interactive activities involved in weekly seminars and workshops; high quality written communication skills are required any coursework task.</li> <li>2. time management skills: these are developed through and evidenced by the ability to cope with an intensive study in a new discipline, whilst working to a demanding schedule of class contact, preparation for classes and for assessments.</li> <li>3. use of IT is developed both as a research tool and for the presentation of any coursework: evidenced by requirement that all coursework be presented as word-processed documents. IT skills are also of increasing importance in the search for and retrieval of legal sources from the internet and legal databases</li> </ol> <p>Team-working is developed most obviously through workshop activities, where small group discussion is followed by more general debate between subgroups, the whole workshop group and the tutor</p>
Syllabus Outline	<p>An Introduction to the Law of Contract  Offer and Acceptance  Intention to Create Legal Relations  Consideration and Promissory Estoppel  Economic Duress  Terms (incorporation and interpretation)  Regulation of terms (exclusion clauses, limitation clauses and unfair terms)  Breach of Contract  Remedies  Privity of Contract (outline only)  Frustration  Misrepresentation</p>

<p>Contact Hours</p>	<p><u>Full Time CPE</u></p> <p>The basic class contact pattern is as follows:</p> <p>1 hour per week            plenary session  1 hour per week            seminar discussion (max 12 students per seminar)</p> <p>2 hours per fortnight    workshop sessions (ie combined seminar groups; max 3 seminar groups) for purposes of interactive consideration of practical tasks and discussion of current syllabus topic</p> <p>In any given academic year, there will normally be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 one hour lectures, including introductory and revision lectures;</li> <li>• 12 hours of workshops (6 x 2 hours), including a revision workshop; and</li> <li>• 10 seminars (including one cycle of revision seminars)</li> </ul> <p>Consequently, in any academic year, there will normally be 37 hours of contact time for each student.</p> <p><u>Part Time CPE</u></p> <p>In any academic year, the basic class contact for the subject is normally as follows:</p> <p>At the September Induction tuition session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 hour                    subject introductory lecture</li> </ul> <p>At the five subsequent tuition sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 ½ hours with tutor. Normally split into 1.5 hours in plenary session and 2 hours in seminar groups</li> </ul> <p>Consequently, in any academic year, there will normally be 18.5 hours of contact time.</p>
<p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p>	<p>Students are introduced to each topic through the medium of a 1 hour lecture which may be interactive in part.</p> <p>Full Time Students are then required to prepare for the 2 hour interactive workshop through (1) reading (a) the materials provided (the Powerpoint slides for the lecture (sometimes containing more detail'); a 'Topic Outline' supplementing the lecture and filling in more detail (b) directed reading in the texts provided (2) research in legal databases/texts available from the library (3) independent work (a) preparing to discuss the legal principles and details of the law relevant to the topic area and analysing the situations in the Workshop case studies and their legal implications and the rights and remedies of the parties involved.</p> <p>For the Seminars students are required to develop their knowledge of the legal topic further and to use the same techniques as in the preparation for the Workshops to be able to deal with the seminar specific case studies; some of which will be unseen.</p> <p>For both seminars and workshops students are expected to be able to present brief outlines of and/or commentary on the relevant law; their analysis of specific problems and their 'solutions' to specific case studies to the group.</p>

	<p>It is anticipated that students will need to engage in approx. 4 hours work in preparation for all face to face sessions and in reflection and reinforcement following a session.</p>
Reading Strategy	<p>At the start of the academic year, each student will be provided with some core published materials for the subject, being a text book; a book of cases and materials, and a book of legislation (see below: Indicative Sources).</p> <p>Any <b>essential</b> reading will be indicated clearly to students (normally by a combination of Topic Outlines; workshop / plenary instructions and seminar instructions). Essential reading for a particular topic or class will normally be a combination of parts of the core material provided to students and / or other specific references that students will need to access for themselves (eg case reports, journal articles, Law Commission reports, etc).</p> <p>Each year the subject team will determine which texts are to be purchased for the individual use of the students studying this subject. The selection may vary from one year to another but will usually comprise, as a minimum, one student textbook appropriate in style for the intensive nature of the course; one casebook and one volume of selected statutes. In addition students will be referred to the range of materials in the Bolland Library and they will be expected to fully utilise the variety of legal journals available both in hard copy and electronically, as part of their research for coursework in the Foundation subjects.</p> <p>By way of illustration, in the 2016 / 2017 academic year, the texts provided to students will be:</p> <p>O'Sullivan and Hilliard The Law of Contract 7<sup>th</sup> Edition OUP  Jill Poole Casebook on Contract Law 13<sup>th</sup> Edition OUP  Blackstone's Statutes Contract, Tort and Restitution 2016 – 2017</p>
Indicative Reading List	<p>If <b>further reading</b> is expected, this will be indicated clearly to students (normally by a combination of Topic Outlines; workshop / plenary instructions and seminar instructions).</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to make full use of the printed and electronic resources available to them through the UWE Library (for the purposes of both class contact preparation and research in preparation for coursework and examination assessments). These include (amongst other things) a range of printed case reports, legislation, texts and journals, as well as a range of electronic journals and a wide variety of resources available through web sites and information gateways (including online study and legal research sites provided by the Law Library). The University Library's web pages provide access to subject relevant resources and services, and to the library catalogue. Many resources can be accessed remotely. Students will be presented with opportunities within the curriculum to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to identify relevant resources effectively.</p>

### Part 3: Assessment

Assessment Strategy	<p>The Assessment:</p> <p>Obligations I (Contract Law) is taught and examined in the same Teaching Block of the Diploma as Obligations II (Law of Tort), Criminal Law and Public Law. In any given academic year, there will be a coursework in two of these four subjects. Consequently, in alternate years, there will be assessed coursework in Obligations I (Contract Law) In every academic year, there will be an unseen examination in each of the four subjects.</p>
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	<p>Therefore assessment in any given academic year takes the form of either:</p> <p>(a) Coursework and Examination</p> <p>(i) An unseen examination of two and a half hours duration at the end of the Teaching Block. Students will be required to answer no more than three questions from a minimum of six questions. Students are permitted to take their own, unannotated copy of the relevant statute book in the examination. The examination requires students to adapt their knowledge and demonstrate their understanding of the law in relation to novel situations and under time constraint; <u>and</u></p> <p>(ii) a coursework task set on a syllabus topic requiring students to demonstrate their ability to research a topic and to produce an appropriate response to the task set. For example, this may take the form of a critical analysis of the syllabus topic, an evaluative response to proposed reforms of the law in that context; advice to a hypothetical client based on a factual scenario provided by the tutor; the draft of a short scholarly article or conference paper etc.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>(b) Examination only</p> <p>An unseen examination of three and a half hours duration at the end of the Teaching Block. Students will be required to answer four questions from a choice of eight questions. Students are permitted to take their own, unannotated copy of the relevant statute book in the examination. The examination requires students to adapt their knowledge and demonstrate their understanding of the law in relation to novel situations and under time constraint.</p> <p>All students are provided with a voluntary opportunity to sit at least 1 test paper (made available electronically) before the formal and summative assessment by examination takes place.</p>
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Assessment in an academic year in which there is an assessed coursework		
% weighting between components A and B	<b>A:</b>	<b>B:</b>
	75%	25%
<b>First Sit</b>		
<b>Component A</b> (controlled conditions) <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> <b>(as % of component)</b>	
1. Unseen Exam (2.5 hours)	100%	
<b>Component B</b> <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> <b>(as % of component)</b>	
1. Coursework	100%	

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)	
<b>Component A</b> (controlled conditions) <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> <b>(as % of component)</b>

1. Unseen Exam (2.5 hours)	100%
<b>Component B Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting (as % of component)</b>
2. Coursework	100%
If a student is permitted a retake of the module under the University Regulations and Procedures, the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.	

<b>Assessment in an academic year in which there is no assessed coursework</b>		
% weighting between components A and B	<b>A:</b>	<b>B:</b>
	100%	
<b>First Sit</b>		
<b>Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting (as % of component)</b>	
1. Unseen Exam (3.5 hours)	100%	
<b>Component B Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting (as % of component)</b>	
n/a		

<b>Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)</b>		
<b>Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting (as % of component)</b>	
2. Unseen Exam (3.5 hours)	100%	
<b>Component B Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting (as % of component)</b>	
n/a		
If a student is permitted a retake of the module under the University Regulations and Procedures, the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.		