



Module Specification

Obligations I (Contract Law)

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Obligations I (Contract Law)

Module code: UJXU54-20-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 20

ECTS credit rating: 10

Faculty: Faculty of Business & Law

Department: FBL Dept of Law

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Not in use for Modules

Field: Law - non modular

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes.

Knowledge and Understanding:

Knowledge and understanding is developed through lectures, seminars and workshop activities and is assessed in both the coursework and the examination.

Subject Specific Skills:

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.

Transferable Skills:

Students will be encouraged to adopt a pro-active approach to legal learning.

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.

Outline syllabus: The syllabus includes:

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

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Students are introduced to each topic through the medium of a 1 hour lecture which may be interactive in part.

Full Time Students are then required to prepare for the 2 hour interactive workshop through reading the materials provided (the Powerpoint slides for the lecture (sometimes containing more detail')); a 'Topic Outline' supplementing the lecture and filling in more detail and directed reading in the texts provided.

Research in legal databases/texts available from the library.

Independent work 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.

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.

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.

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.

Contact Hours:

Full Time CPE:

The basic class contact pattern is as follows:

1 hour per week plenary session

1 hour per week seminar discussion (max 12 students per seminar)

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.

In any given academic year, there will normally be:

15 one hour lectures, including introductory and revision lectures;

12 hours of workshops (6 x 2 hours), including a revision workshop;
10 seminars (including one cycle of revision seminars).

Consequently, in any academic year, there will normally be 37 hours of contact time for each student.

Part Time CPE:

In any academic year, the basic class contact for the subject is normally as follows:

At the September Induction tuition session:

1 hour subject introductory lecture

At the five subsequent tuition sessions:

3 ½ hours with tutor. Normally split into 1.5 hours in plenary session and 2 hours in seminar groups

Consequently, in any academic year, there will normally be 18.5 hours of contact time.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

A1 A sound knowledge and understanding of the concept of a contract

A2 An appreciation of the place of Contract Law in the Law of Obligations

A3 A sound knowledge and understanding of the factors and theories which have influenced and continue to influence the development of Contract Law

A4 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

A5 An appreciation of some of the key debates on the reform of Contract Law

B1 An ability to apply, highlighting areas of uncertainty, the principles of Contract Law to a range of factual scenarios

B2 Skills of synthesis

B3 An ability to critically analyse and evaluate existing principles of Contract Law

B4 An ability to make reasoned proposals for reform of this area of law or to justify the retention of the current law

C1 The ability to present reasoned legal argument, both orally and in writing

C2 The ability to conduct effective library-based legal research

C3 The ability to make effective use of ICT for legal research

C4 The ability to apply existing law to problem situations

C5 The ability to critically analyse and evaluate primary and secondary legal materials

D1 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

D2 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. Study Management Skills.

D3 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

D4 Team working skills

Hours to be allocated: 200

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 163 hours

Face-to-face learning = 37 hours

Total = 200

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujxu54-20-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujxu54-20-3.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: 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 examination in each of the four subjects.

Therefore assessment in any given academic year takes the form of either:

Coursework and Examination:

An online examination (75% of the module mark), to be completed within a 24 hour window, at the end of the Teaching Block. Students will be required to answer no more than three questions from a minimum of six questions (3750 words). The examination requires students to adapt their knowledge and demonstrate their understanding of the law in relation to novel situations and under time constraint.

A coursework task (25% of the module mark) 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.

Or:

Examination only:

An online examination (100% of the module mark), to be completed within a 24 hour window, at the end of the Teaching Block. Students will be required to answer four questions from a choice of eight questions (4500 words). The examination requires students to adapt their knowledge and demonstrate their understanding of the law in relation to novel situations and under time constraint.

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.

Assessment components:

Examination (Online) (First Sit)

Description: Online examination (up to 4500 words if exam only, 3750 words if exam and coursework)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, D1, D2, D3, D4

Examination (Online) (Resit)

Description: Examination online (up to 4500 words if exam only, up to 3750 words if exam and coursework)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Examination (Online) (Resit)

Description: Examination online (up to 4500 words if exam only, up to 3750 if exam and coursework)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: