

Course Outline: Contract Law for Diploma in Law Students

Course Title: Contract Law

Course Code: DLAW 102

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Introduction to Law (DLAW 101) or equivalent

Course Level: Diploma (Year 1)

Course Duration: One Semester (15 Weeks)

Course Description

Contract Law is a fundamental course designed for students pursuing a Diploma in Law. The course introduces students to the principles, concepts, and rules governing the formation, performance, and enforcement of contracts. It covers essential topics such as offer and acceptance, consideration, capacity, legality, and remedies for breach of contract. This course aims to equip students with a solid understanding of contractual obligations and rights, preparing them for legal practice and further studies in law.

Course Objectives

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

1. Understand the basic principles and elements of contract law.
2. Identify and explain the requirements for a valid contract.
3. Analyze contractual issues and apply relevant legal principles to resolve disputes.

4. Examine the remedies available for breach of contract.
5. Develop the ability to draft and interpret simple contracts.

Course Benefits

- **Foundation for Legal Practice:** Contract law is integral to legal practice, as it governs most commercial and personal transactions. Understanding contract law is essential for those entering the legal profession.
- **Practical Skills:** Students will learn how to draft, review, and enforce contracts, skills that are valuable in many legal and business contexts.
- **Critical Thinking:** The course enhances students' analytical skills by requiring them to apply legal principles to real-world scenarios.
- **Broad Applicability:** Knowledge of contract law is applicable in various fields, including business, employment, and government services.

Likely Employment Opportunities

- **Legal Assistant/Paralegal:** Assisting lawyers in drafting contracts, legal research, and case preparation.
- **Contract Administrator:** Managing and reviewing contracts for organizations to ensure compliance with legal requirements.
- **Business Consultant:** Advising businesses on legal issues related to contracts and agreements.
- **Government Officer:** Working in government departments that handle contracts, such as procurement or public works.
- **Self-Employment:** Providing contract-related services as a freelancer or consultant.
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Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction to Contract Law

- Definition and purpose of contract law
- Historical development of contract law
- Sources of contract law: statutes, case law, and common law

Week 2: The Elements of a Valid Contract I: Offer and Acceptance

- Definition of an offer and acceptance
- Rules governing offer and acceptance
- Termination of offers: revocation, rejection, lapse of time

Week 3: The Elements of a Valid Contract II: Consideration

- Definition and types of consideration
- The role of consideration in contract formation
- The doctrine of promissory estoppel

Week 4: Capacity to Contract

- Legal capacity: minors, mental incapacity, intoxication
- Contracts involving corporations and partnerships
- The impact of lack of capacity on contract validity

Week 5: Legality of Object

- Illegal contracts and public policy
- Contracts in restraint of trade
- Consequences of illegality in contracts

Week 6: Intention to Create Legal Relations

- Social and domestic agreements vs. commercial agreements
- Presumptions of intent in contract law
- Case studies on intention to create legal relations

Week 7: Terms of a Contract

- Express and implied terms
- Conditions, warranties, and innominate terms
- Exclusion clauses and unfair terms

Week 8: Vitiating Factors I: Misrepresentation

- Definition and types of misrepresentation
- The effect of misrepresentation on a contract
- Remedies for misrepresentation

Week 9: Vitiating Factors II: Mistake, Duress, and Undue Influence

- Types of mistake in contract law
- The impact of duress and undue influence on contract validity
- Case studies on vitiating factors

Week 10: Performance and Discharge of Contracts

- Methods of discharging a contract: performance, agreement, breach, frustration
- The doctrine of substantial performance
- The effect of breach on contract obligations

Week 11: Remedies for Breach of Contract I

- Damages: compensatory, nominal, and punitive
- The principle of remoteness of damage
- Mitigation of loss

Week 12: Remedies for Breach of Contract II

- Specific performance
- Injunctions
- Rescission and restitution

Week 13: The Law of Agency

- Definition and types of agency relationships
- Authority of agents: actual, apparent, and ratified authority
- Rights and duties of agents and principals

Week 14: Drafting and Interpretation of Contracts

- Basic principles of contract drafting
- Common clauses in contracts
- Techniques for interpreting contract terms

Week 15: Review and Examination Preparation

- Review of key concepts and principles
- Discussion of potential examination questions
- Final Q&A and preparation tips

Assessment Methods

- **Class Participation:** 10%

- **Midterm Exam:** 20%
- **Contract Drafting Assignment:** 30%
- **Final Exam:** 40%

Recommended Reading

1. **Cheshire, Fifoot, and Furmston's Law of Contract** by M.P. Furmston
2. **The Law of Contract in Uganda** by David Bakibinga
3. **Contract Law: Text, Cases, and Materials** by Ewan McKendrick
4. **Anson's Law of Contract** by J. Beatson

Additional Resources

- **Online Databases:** Uganda Legal Information Institute (ULII), African Journals Online (AJOL)
- **Journals:** Uganda Law Review, East African Law Journal
- **Websites:** Uganda Law Society, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Uganda

This course outline is designed to provide Ugandan diploma students with a practical and theoretical foundation in contract law, essential for both legal practice and various employment opportunities in the legal and business fields.