

CONTRACTS I
LAW 102-003
FALL 2023

Professor Rao
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Course schedule/meeting times/type:

Thursday 9:50-11:50 AM

Office hours: Thursday 4:00-5:00 PM or by appointment (Hazel Hall 450E)

Required texts:

Casebook: Contract Law and Theory, Robert Scott & Jody Kraus (5th ed.)

Supplement: Contract Law and Theory, Selected Provisions (5th ed.)

Course overview/description:

This course offers an introduction to contract law, theory and practice. The course will focus on contract formation and grounds for enforcing contracts. We will explore the legal arguments made (or can be made) by each side of the dispute, the legal reasoning behind court rulings, and the purposes/policy goals the various legal rules are designed to serve.

Learning outcomes: By the end of the course, students will understand and be able to apply:

- Consideration doctrine and various bases for enforcing promises.
- Offer and acceptance, and contract formation in general, under the common law and Article 2 of the UCC.
- Doctrines designed for courts to police the bargain.

Basis of evaluation & assessments:

- Grading will be based on the final exam. The exam will be open book and will likely consist of a series of essay questions based on the material covered in class. I reserve the right to adjust your grade down for lack of reading preparation.

Instructor expectations: Students are expected to arrive to each class prepared to discuss the assigned material, including the relevant UCC and Restatement (Second) provisions.

Course rules/structure: I will call on several students each class. On the evening before class, I will post on TWEN the names of students who are expected to be called on the next day. Please note, however, that I expect *everyone* to be prepared for each class.

Feedback: I welcome constructive feedback via email at any time.

Attendance: This course adheres to the law school's attendance policy. Regular and punctual attendance are required to earn academic credit. Should circumstances occur where you anticipate the possibility of missing a substantial number of class sessions (e.g. a serious illness), you should immediately contact the Assistant Dean, Student Academic Affairs.

Class recordings prohibited: Pursuant to Academic Regulation 4-2.2, no portion of a class session or an examination may be preserved by means of a recording device such as an audio recording device or camera. Any exceptions to this policy must be expressly permitted in writing by me.

COVID instructional contingency plan: The course will transition from in person to online in the event the University requires remote instruction or in the event I am unable to attend in person.

Exam conflicts: In accordance with Academic Regulation 4-4.1, excuses and requests for permission not to sit for an examination when scheduled must be presented, with appropriate documentation, to the Assistant Dean, Student Academic Affairs. Except in emergencies, such requests should be presented no later than two weeks before the date of the examination.

Academic integrity: It is expected that students adhere to the Antonin Scalia Law School Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing. This includes a student obligation to never represent the work of another as their own, and to never provide or accept unauthorized assistance on any school related assignment. The Honor Code is available here:
<https://sls.gmu.edu/honor/>.

Classroom accommodations: Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disabilities Registration Process. Faculty may not receive or respond to requests for an accommodation. All requests must be handled by the office of Disability Services. You may contact Disability Services directly via email at ods@gmu.edu or phone at (703) 993-2474. If you have any questions about how in-class or testing accommodations are implemented at the law school, please contact the Assistant Dean, Student Academic Affairs for more information.

Additional School Policies and Resources:

Student honor code - [Click Here](#)

Academic regulations - [Click Here](#)

University life: University Life provides student support resources such as Counseling and Psychological Services (<https://caps.gmu.edu/>), Student Health Services (<https://shs.gmu.edu/>), and the Student Support and Advocacy Center (<https://ssac.gmu.edu/>). For more information about University Life on the Arlington Campus, please visit: <https://ularlington.gmu.edu/>

Assignments:

The assigned page numbers are from the Scott and Kraus book.

Grounds for Enforcing Promises

Class 1: 1-30

Class 2: 42-52, 131-143

Class 3: 143-173; 193-197 (*skim*)

Contractual Formation

Class 4: 203-220; 225 n.3-235

Class 5: 246-278

Contractual Relationships and Conduct

Class 6: 281-306; 30-39

Class 7: 316-341

Class 8: 341-355; 380-389

Policing the Bargaining

Class 9: 401-420

Class 10: 420-437; 448-464

Class 11: 464-473; 480-500

Class 12: 501-514; 52-61

Class 13: Catch-up and review

Date of Exam (open book): November 29