

Module Descriptor



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Module title	Contract law
Module code	LA1040
Module level	4
Contact email	The Undergraduate Laws Programme courses are run in collaboration with the University of London International Programmes. Enquiries may be made via the Student Advice Centre at: www.enquiries.londoninternational.ac.uk
Credit value	30
Courses on which this module is offered	CertHE, LLB, EMFSS
Module pre-requisites	None
Notional study time	300 hours

MODULE PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

Contract law is one of the seven foundation subjects required for a qualifying law degree in England and Wales and is a core requirement of the University of London LLB and CertHE Common Law programmes. This module covers the key underlying principles of English contract law and includes key topics such as formation of contracts, consideration, privity, breach of contract and remedies for breach of contract.

MODULE AIM

This module introduces students to the principles of contract at common law and in equity and helps them to understand how these principles are applied to agreements.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: KNOWLEDGE

Students completing this module are expected to have knowledge and understanding of the main concepts and principles of contract law. In particular they should be able to:

1. Explain the relationship between policy and principle in common law and legislative provisions in contract law;
2. Describe the essential elements of a contract and explain how a contract may be terminated;
3. Identify and explain appropriate remedies for breach of contractual obligations;
4. Describe the economic, social and political context in which contract law is applied;
5. Demonstrate understanding of the development of contract law and discuss its possible future direction(s).

LEARNING OUTCOMES: SKILLS

Students completing this module should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

6. Summarise standard legal materials and arguments;
7. Analyse statutes and cases concerned with contract law and apply principles to problem scenarios;
8. Identify issues raised by legal questions and problems and provide reasoned solutions;
9. Carry out straightforward research tasks, using internet based resources.

BENCHMARK FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) benchmark statement for Law (2015).

MODULE SYLLABUS

(a) *The formation of contracts.* Offer and acceptance. Consideration. Certainty of agreement. Intention to create legal relations.

(b) *The content of the contract.* Conditions, warranties and intermediate terms. Exemption clauses. Implied terms at common law. Collateral contracts. Statutory implied terms with regard to the quality of goods sold and goods or services supplied.

(c) *Vitiating factors.* Mistake. Misrepresentation. Duress and undue influence.

(d) *Illegality and public policy (excluding gaming and wagering).* Contracts illegal at common law. Consequences of illegality. Contracts in restraint of trade.

(e) *Capacity to contract, with particular reference to the capacity of minors.*

(f) *Privity of contract (excluding agency and assignment).*

(g) *Performance and breach.* Substantial performance. Repudiation and anticipatory breach. Discharge by breach. Discharge under the doctrine of frustration.

(h) *Remedies for breach of contract.* General principles governing the assessment of damages. Remoteness of damage. Damages for non-financial loss. Mitigation. Restitutionary remedies. Liquidated damages and penalties. Specific performance.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Subject guide

Subject guides are the student's primary learning resource. The subject guide covers the entire syllabus and provides students with the grounding to complete the module successfully. The subject guide sets out the learning outcomes that must be achieved as well as providing advice on how to study the subject. Each chapter of the guide includes essential and further reading and a series of activities designed to test knowledge and develop relevant skills. Feedback on activities is provided at the end of the guide. In addition, each chapter contains sample examination questions with guidance on how to answer, self-assessment questions to enable students to judge if they are ready to move on, and multiple choice quizzes, with answers provided on the VLE. The subject guide is supplemented each year with 'Recent Developments in Law', also made available on the VLE.

The Laws Virtual Learning Environment

The Laws VLE provides one centralised location where the following resources are provided:

- a module page with news and updates, provided by legal academics associated with the Laws Programme;
- a complete version of the subject guides;
- online audio presentations;
- recent developments in law;
- past examination papers and reports;
- discussion forums where students can debate and interact with other students;
- Computer Marked Assessments – multiple choice questions with feedback are available for some modules allowing students to test their knowledge and understanding of the key topics.

The Online Library

The Online Library provides access to:

- the professional legal databases LexisLibrary and Westlaw;
- cases and up-to-date statutes;
- key academic law journals;
- law reports;
- links to important websites.

Core Reading

Students should refer to the following core text. Specific reading references are provided in each chapter of the Subject Guide:

McKendrick, E. *Contract law*. (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) 11th edition [ISBN 9781137475794] (this new edition is due to be published in June 2015. The references in the subject guide are to the 10th edition, but you should be able to use the headings to find the correct readings in the new edition. We advise you to purchase the new edition in order to have the most up to date information).

Students should also buy a case book. The subject guide is structured around the following text:

Poole, J. *Casebook on contract law*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014) 12th edition [ISBN 9780199687237].

<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199687237.do>

ASSESSMENT

Learning is supported by means of a series of activities in the Subject Guide, including self-assessment activities with feedback and multiple choice questions with answers provided on the VLE. These activities test the skills outcomes 6-10. The formative activities also help to prepare students to achieve the module learning outcomes tested in the Summative Assessment.

Summative assessment is through a three hour unseen examination. Students are required to answer 4 questions out of 8. The questions include both essay and problem based questions and test in particular the knowledge outcomes 1-5 and skills outcomes 6-8.

Permitted materials

Students are permitted to bring into the examination room the following specified document: *Blackstone's Statutes on Contract, Tort & Restitution* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780198735984.do>