

Professor Robert Farley

BLAW 220 – Business Law – Law of Contracts - Class Syllabus

Class One: INTRODUCTION – COURSE OVERVIEW

Slide Set 01 Video 01

Class Two: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW

Part One: What is the Law?

Slide Set 02A Video 02A

- Definitions / Types of Laws / Priority of Laws

Part Two: What is a Right?

Slide Set 02B Video 02B

- Definitions / Natural Law / The Declaration

Part Three: Constitutions

Slide Set 02C Video 02C

- Federal and State

- Government Structure / Rights / Stories of Creation

Case Study: Marbury v. Madison

Case 02/Brief 02 Video 02D

- The Start of Judicial Review

Class Three: CREATION / ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS

Part One: The Executive Branch

Slide Set 03A Video 03A

- Federal and State / Powers / Regs / Exec Orders

Part Two: The Judicial Branch

Slide Set 03B Video 03B

- Federal and State / Powers / Cases

Part Three: The Legislative Branch

Slide Set 03C Video 03C

- Federal and State / Powers / Statutes

Class Exercise: How a Bill Becomes a Law

Exercise 03 Video 03D

Class Four: THE MEANING OF CONTRACTS

Part One: Rights in Contracts

Slide Set 04A Video 04A

- The Founders View of Contracts

- The Contracts in the Common Law

- Definitions / Elements of a Contract

- Nature and Classes of Contracts

Part Two: Contract Formation - Offers

Slide Set 04B Video 04B

- Definition

- Requirements of an Offer

- Termination of an Offer

Part Three: Contract Formation - Acceptance

Slide Set 04C Video 04C

- Definition

- Requirements of an Acceptance

- Form, Nature and Effect of Acceptance

Case Study: Kolchins v. Evolution Market

Case 04/Brief 04 Video 04D

- Recognition of Contractual Elements

Class Five: CONTRACTUAL CAPACITY AND ASSENT

Part One: Contractual Capacity

Slide Set 05A Video 05A

- Definition

- Minors / Incompetents / Intoxication

Part Two: Mistake

Slide Set 05A Video 05A

- Unilateral Mistake

- Mutual Mistake

- Mistake in Transcription or Printing

Part Three: Deception or Pressure

Slide Set 05C Video 05C

- Intentional Misrepresentation / Fraud

- Negligent Misrepresentation

- Non Disclosure

- Undue Influence

- Duress

Case Study: Gerstein v. Broad Hollow Co

Case 05/Brief 05 Video 05D

- Free Will to Contract is Required

Class Six: CONSIDERATION AND LEGALITY

Part One: Consideration

Slide Set 06A Video 06A

- Definition

- General Principles

- Special Situations

- Exceptions

Part Two: Legality

Slide Set 06B Video 06B

- Definition

- General Principles

- Partial Illegality

Part Three: Public Policy

Slide Set 06C Video 06C

- Definition

- Agreements Affecting Public Welfare

- Public Policy Violations

Case Study: Allegheny College v. National Bank

Case 06/Brief 06 Video 06D

- Consideration as a Condition of Contract

Class Seven: CONTRACT RULES & INTERPRETATION

Part One: Statute of Frauds

Slide Set 07A Video 07A

- Definition

- Oral and Written Contracts

- Effects of Noncompliance

Part Two: Parole Evidence Rule

Slide Set 07B Video 07B

- Definition

- Exclusion

- Non Application

Part Three: Rules of Construction

Slide Set 07C Video 07C

- Definitions

- Intent of the Parties

- Four Corners of the Contract

- Terms: Contrary / Ambiguous / Implied

- Conduct / Custom / Hardship

Case Study: Bethlehem Steel v. Turner Construction

Case 07/Brief 07 Video 07D

- Contracts are Considered from their Four Corners

*** MIDTERM EXAM ***

Class Eight: THIRD PARTIES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Part One: Third Party Beneficiaries

Slide Set 08A Video 08A

- Definition

- Modification / Termination

- Limitations

- Incidental Beneficiaries

Part Two: Assignments

Slide Set 08B Video 08B

- Definitions

- Form and Notice

- Rights and Liabilities

- Warrantees and Duties

Case Study: Fourth Ocean v. Interstate

Case 08/Brief 08 Video 08D

- The Rights of 3rd Party Beneficiaries in Contract

Class Nine: CONTRACTUAL BREACH AND REMEDIES

Part One: Breach and Fulfillment of Contracts

Slide Set 09A Video 09A

- Definitions

- Anticipatory Breach

- Waiver and Cure of Breach

Part Two: Remedies

Slide Set 09B Video 09B

- Definitions

- Monetary Damages

- Non Monetary Damages

- Consequential Damages

Part Three: Contractual Provisions on Remedies

Slide Set 09C Video 09C

- Limitation on Remedies / Liability

- Liquidated Damages

- Attorneys Fees

Case Study: Newburger v. Lubell

Case 09/Brief 09 Video 09D

- Necessity to Perform Contract to Avoid Breach

Class Ten: THE CRIMINAL LAW

Part One: Structure and Purpose of Criminal Law

Slide Set 10A Video 10A

- Substantive and Procedural Criminal Law

- Purpose of Criminal Law

- Criminal Law and Civil Torts

Part Two: Theories of Criminal Punishment

Slide Set 10B Video 10B

- Theories of Criminal Punishment / Sentencing

- Enforcement

- Classification of Crimes

Part Three: The Common Law Felonies

Slide Set 10C Video 10C

- Current Day Criminal Statutes

- Crimes at Common Law - Felonies

Case Study: Regina v. Dudley and Stephens

Case 10/Brief 10 Video 10D

- Necessity and Mens Rea

Class Eleven: TORTS

Part One: General Principles

Slide Set 11A Video 11A

- Definitions

- Torts vs. Crimes

- Types of Torts

Part Two: Intentional Torts vs. Unintentional Torts

Slide Set 11B Video 11B

- Definitions

- Intentional Torts

- Unintentional Torts and Negligence

Part Three: Liability and Foreseeability

Slide Set 11C Video 11C

- Definitions

- Liability

- Foreseeability

- Strict Liability

Case Study: MacPherson v. Buick Motor Company

Case 11/Brief 11 Video 11D

- The Elements of Foreseeability

Class Twelve: PAYMENT SYSTEMS – INTRODUCTION

Part One: Negotiable Instruments – Types/Parties

Slide Set 12A Video 12A

- Definitions

- Types of Negotiable Instruments

- Parties to Negotiable Instruments

Part Two: Negotiability

Slide Set 12B Video 12B

- Definitions

- Requirements of Negotiability, Factors & Language

- Statute of Limitations Issues

Part Three: Transfer/Problems/Warrantees

Slide Set 12C Video 12C

- Definitions

- Effect of Transfer / Process of Negotiation

- Forgery / Unauthorized Documents / Imposters

- Lost Instruments / Warrantees / Other Parties

Case Study: Manhattan Savings v. NY Natl Exchange

Case 12/Brief 12 Video 12D

- The Elements of Commercial Paper

Class Thirteen: PAYMENT SYSTEMS – SECTION TWO

Part One: Parties to Negotiable Instruments

Slide Set 13A Video 13A

- Definitions

- Holders in Due Course

- Rights / Duties / Liabilities

Part Two: Defenses to Payment

Slide Set 13B Video 13B

- Defenses

- Liability Issues

Part Three: Checks and Fund Transfers

Slide Set 13C Video 13C

- Definitions

- Checks

- Fund Transfers

Case Study: Sabine v. Paine

Case 13/Brief 13 Video 13D

- The Value of Holders in Due Course

FINAL EXAMINATION REVIEW

Final Exam Review Session

FinalReview FinalReview

*** FINAL EXAM ***

CAREER SERVICES RESOURCES:

Whether you are planning for employment or graduate school, take advantage of the School of Business state-of-the-art professional development resources. (You can access them using your UAlbany email address).