



# LAW 204

## Contracts

S2 External 2015

*Dept of Law*

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### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Ilija Vickovich

[ilija.vickovich@mq.edu.au](mailto:ilija.vickovich@mq.edu.au)

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W3A 624

Mon 3pm-4pm

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

LAW115 and (admission prior to 2014 to LLB or BAppFinLLB or BALLB or BA-MediaLLB or BA-PsychLLB or BBALLB or BComLLB or BCom-ProfAccgLLB or BEnvLLB or BITLLB or BIntStudLLB or BScLLB or BSocScLLB)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

LAW204 Contracts

Unit description

The law of contracts is a fundamental area of study for an undergraduate degree in law and serves as the basis for a variety of later core and elective units. This unit equips students with a knowledge of essential doctrinal principles of contract law and the capacity to apply legal problem solving skills to the resolution of contractual disputes. It covers the formation of contracts, the contents and interpretation of contractual terms, the vitiating factors affecting contract formation, the discharge of contractual liabilities, and other related issues such as formal requirements, illegality and privity of contract. In addition, the unit conveys an understanding of the main competing philosophies of contract and the practical role of contracts in a broader social and historical context.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Describe the legal principles relating to contract law.

Explain the main competing philosophies underpinning contract law and describe the role of contracts in a historical and social context

Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.

Analyse hypothetical fact situations, identify legal and factual issues involving the law relating to contract law, and apply relevant principles to solve legal problems.

Demonstrate research, writing and referencing skills appropriate to students undertaking a 100 level unit.

## General Assessment Information

All applications for special consideration in relation to any assessment task must be made in accordance with the University's Disruption to Studies policy.

It is anticipated that a student might need to apply for special consideration in relation to misadventures that affect the student's performance. All applications for special consideration are considered on their own merits. Note, however, that it is no longer University policy to grant special consideration in the form of an inflated mark. Instead, special consideration will generally take the form of additional time or an alternative assessment.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<a href="#"><u>Early Assessment</u></a>	10%	Week 4
<a href="#"><u>Assignment</u></a>	30%	11 Sep (int); 25 Sep (ext)
<a href="#"><u>Mid-Semester Assessment</u></a>	10%	Week 9
<a href="#"><u>Final Exam</u></a>	40%	Examination Period
<a href="#"><u>Class Participation</u></a>	10%	Continuing

### Early Assessment

Due: **Week 4**

Weighting: **10%**

The early assessment task is an online multiple choice test to take place in week 4 (date to be provided at the start of semester). This assessment task's purpose is to engage students with their unit early in the session and to provide an opportunity for relatively early feedback. The questions will be drawn from the topics covered in lectures and readings of the first three weeks

of the unit schedule. The multiple choice test will consist of 20 multiple choice questions to be completed in 20 minutes. Further instructions to students about completing the quiz online will be posted in due course.

Students who are unable to sit for the test at the designated time must contact the unit convenor and make a disruption to study application and, if it is approved, may sit for an equivalent test by appointment with the unit convenor.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the legal principles relating to contract law.

## Assignment

Due: **11 Sep (int); 25 Sep (ext)**

Weighting: **30%**

The Assignment in this unit will be a hypothetical problem question and will be available on iLearn in week 2. The assignment must be a properly referenced formal response with appropriate analysis and argument supported by relevant authoritative cases and commentary. The assignment is to be submitted on the Turnitin link in iLearn. The length is 1,500 words (excluding footnotes) with a leeway of 100 words maximum. The actual word length must be stated on the assignment. Footnotes are not to include substantive material. In completing their assignment, students must comply with the *Australian Guide to Legal Citation* (3rd ed). The Guide is available at: <http://mulr.law.unimelb.edu.au/go/AGLC3>

Assignments submitted out of time will not be marked unless a disruption to study application is lodged and approved in accordance with the university's disruption to study policy which is available at: [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the legal principles relating to contract law.
- Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.
- Analyse hypothetical fact situations, identify legal and factual issues involving the law relating to contract law, and apply relevant principles to solve legal problems.
- Demonstrate research, writing and referencing skills appropriate to students undertaking a 100 level unit.

## Mid-Semester Assessment

Due: **Week 9**

Weighting: **10%**

The mid-semester assessment task is an online multiple choice test to take place in week 9 (date

to be provided at the start of semester). The questions will be drawn from the topics covered in lectures and readings of weeks 5 and 6 of the unit schedule. The multiple choice test will consist of 20 multiple choice questions to be completed in 20 minutes. Further instructions to students about completing the quiz online will be posted in due course.

Students who are unable to sit for the test at the designated time must contact the unit convenor and make a disruption to study application and, if it is approved, may sit for an equivalent test by appointment with the unit convenor.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the legal principles relating to contract law.

## Final Exam

Due: **Examination Period**

Weighting: **40%**

The end of semester examination in this unit will be a formal sit-down open book examination. It will be based on material covered in the unit (more detailed information will be provided by the unit convenor). The examination will contain both hypothetical and essay questions. Two hours plus reading time will be provided. The University's examination period in Session 2 is from 9 November 2015 to 27 November 2015. Students must be available for examination at the time and place designated in the University examination timetable. The timetable will be available in draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations.

Any student who is unable to attend the final exam due to exceptional and unforeseen circumstances must contact the unit convenor at the earliest possible opportunity and also make an application, with appropriate evidence, in accordance with the university's disruption to study policy. If approved, the student may be permitted to attend any supplementary exam that is held for the unit at a time and place determined by the unit convenor. In such cases, students must be prepared to attend the supplementary exam outside the official university exam period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the legal principles relating to contract law.
- Explain the main competing philosophies underpinning contract law and describe the role of contracts in a historical and social context
- Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.
- Analyse hypothetical fact situations, identify legal and factual issues involving the law relating to contract law, and apply relevant principles to solve legal problems.

## Class Participation

Due: **Continuing**

Weighting: **10%**

Internal students will participate in a compulsory one-hour tutorial every week that will provide the opportunity to explore, analyse and apply the principal doctrinal rules covered in lectures. Each student must enrol in a tutorial group and attend only that group for the duration of the semester (unless the unit convenor's approval is obtained because of exceptional or unforeseen circumstances). For internal students, outside work commitments are not to be taken into account by the unit convenor if approval for change of tutorial group is sought. Students who are unable to attend a tutorial should submit a disruption to study application through [ask.mq.edu](http://ask.mq.edu) and comply with the university's disruption to study policy. Students who have more than three unauthorised absences will receive a zero grade for class participation.

For internal students, tutorials commence in Week 1 of the semester. Tutorials will focus on addressing the set Questions in the Tutorial Program, although other tutorial exercises may be distributed from time to time. Because of the minimal time available in tutorials, students will be expected to have attempted the Questions at home in study time and to bring their notes to class where group discussion will take place. Students should be prepared to talk to any of the set Questions when called upon to do so by their Tutor. Grading criteria for the class participation mark will be posted on the iLearn unit web page.

External students will be expected to fulfil the class participation requirements at the compulsory On-Campus Session. All external students must make the necessary personal and work arrangements to attend the On Campus Session. In the event of an exceptional and unforeseen inability to attend the On Campus Session, students must contact the unit convenor and also make an application with appropriate evidence under the university's disruption to study policy. If approved, the unit convenor will allocate written work to the student in lieu of attendance. An unauthorised absence from the On Campus Session will provide the unit convenor with grounds to exclude the student from the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the legal principles relating to contract law.
- Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.
- Analyse hypothetical fact situations, identify legal and factual issues involving the law relating to contract law, and apply relevant principles to solve legal problems.

## Delivery and Resources

### Prescribed Materials

§ J Gooley, P Radan & I Vickovich, *Principles of Australian Contract Law*, 3rd ed, LexisNexis,

Sydney, 2014

§ J Gooley, P Radan & I Vickovich, *Principles of Australian Contract Law: Cases & Materials*, 3rd ed, LexisNexis, Sydney, 2015

§ Notes and other additional materials available on iLearn.

Reference Materials

- Carter, Peden & Tolhurst, *Contract Law in Australia*, 5th ed, Lexis Nexis, 2007
- Graw, *An Introduction to the Law of Contract*, 7th ed, Thomson Reuters, 2011
- Peterson, Robertson & Duke, *Principles of Contract Law*, 4th ed, Thomson Reuters, 2011
- Seddon & Ellinghaus, *Cheshire & Fifoot's Law of Contract*, 9th Australian edition, LexisNexis, 2011
- Bruce, *Consumer Protection Law in Australia*, LexisNexis, 2011
- *Journal of Contract Law*

## Unit Schedule

Week	Week Beginning	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic
1	Mon 27 Jul	Introduction to Contracts; Overview of Contract Remedies	Legal Problem Solving Model
2	Mon 3 Aug	Agreement	Introduction to Contracts; Overview of Contract Remedies
3	Mon 10 Aug	Consideration; Equitable Estoppel; Intention	Agreement
4	Mon 17 Aug	Certainty and Completeness; Capacity; Requirement of Writing	Consideration; Equitable Estoppel; Intention
5	Mon 24 Aug	Express Terms	Certainty and Completeness; Capacity; Requirement of Writing

6	Mon 31 Aug	Implied Terms; Construction of Terms; Exclusion Clauses	Express Terms
7	Mon 7 Sep	Misrepresentation; Misleading or Deceptive Conduct; Mistake	Implied Terms; Construction of Terms; Exclusion Clauses
		MID-SEMESTER BREAK On Campus Session 16-17 Sep	
8	Mon 28 Sep	Duress; Unconscionability; Undue Influence; Unjust Contracts	Misrepresentation; Misleading or Deceptive Conduct; Mistake
9	Mon 5 Oct	Discharge by Performance; Discharge by Agreement	Duress; Unconscionability; Undue Influence; Unjust Contracts
10	Mon 12 Oct	Discharge by Breach; Discharge by Frustration	Discharge by Performance; Discharge by Agreement
11	Mon 19 Oct	Illegality	Discharge by Breach; Discharge by Frustration
12	Mon 26 Oct	Privity; Contract Theory	Illegality
13	Mon 2 Nov	Contracts in Context; Exam Preparation	Privity

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)



Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

### Extensions

Any application for extensions of time must comply with the information provided in this Unit Guide under 'Assessment Tasks'. An application in accordance with the university's disruption to study policy will be required in all cases.

Students requiring special arrangements for the completion of any assessment task (including the final exam) due to any disability must contact Campus Wellbeing and seek advice. The unit convenor will deal with such cases only with the approval of Campus Wellbeing.

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)

- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Explain the main competing philosophies underpinning contract law and describe the role of contracts in a historical and social context
- Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.
- Analyse hypothetical fact situations, identify legal and factual issues involving the law relating to contract law, and apply relevant principles to solve legal problems.

### Assessment tasks

- Assignment
- Final Exam

### Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to

handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Explain the main competing philosophies underpinning contract law and describe the role of contracts in a historical and social context
- Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.
- Analyse hypothetical fact situations, identify legal and factual issues involving the law relating to contract law, and apply relevant principles to solve legal problems.
- Demonstrate research, writing and referencing skills appropriate to students undertaking a 100 level unit.

### **Assessment tasks**

- Early Assessment
- Assignment
- Final Exam
- Class Participation

## **Commitment to Continuous Learning**

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Describe the legal principles relating to contract law.
- Explain the main competing philosophies underpinning contract law and describe the role of contracts in a historical and social context
- Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.
- Analyse hypothetical fact situations, identify legal and factual issues involving the law relating to contract law, and apply relevant principles to solve legal problems.

### **Assessment tasks**

- Early Assessment

- Assignment
- Mid-Semester Assessment
- Final Exam
- Class Participation

## Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Describe the legal principles relating to contract law.
- Explain the main competing philosophies underpinning contract law and describe the role of contracts in a historical and social context
- Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.
- Analyse hypothetical fact situations, identify legal and factual issues involving the law relating to contract law, and apply relevant principles to solve legal problems.
- Demonstrate research, writing and referencing skills appropriate to students undertaking a 100 level unit.

### Assessment tasks

- Early Assessment
- Assignment
- Mid-Semester Assessment
- Final Exam
- Class Participation

## Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Explain the main competing philosophies underpinning contract law and describe the role of contracts in a historical and social context
- Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.
- Analyse hypothetical fact situations, identify legal and factual issues involving the law relating to contract law, and apply relevant principles to solve legal problems.
- Demonstrate research, writing and referencing skills appropriate to students undertaking a 100 level unit.

## Assessment tasks

- Assignment
- Final Exam
- Class Participation

## Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Describe the legal principles relating to contract law.
- Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.
- Analyse hypothetical fact situations, identify legal and factual issues involving the law relating to contract law, and apply relevant principles to solve legal problems.
- Demonstrate research, writing and referencing skills appropriate to students undertaking a 100 level unit.

## Assessment tasks

- Early Assessment
- Assignment
- Mid-Semester Assessment
- Final Exam

- Class Participation

## Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Describe the legal principles relating to contract law.
- Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.
- Analyse hypothetical fact situations, identify legal and factual issues involving the law relating to contract law, and apply relevant principles to solve legal problems.
- Demonstrate research, writing and referencing skills appropriate to students undertaking a 100 level unit.

### Assessment tasks

- Early Assessment
- Assignment
- Mid-Semester Assessment
- Final Exam
- Class Participation

## Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Explain the main competing philosophies underpinning contract law and describe the role of contracts in a historical and social context
- Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing

upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.

## Assessment tasks

- Early Assessment
- Assignment
- Mid-Semester Assessment
- Final Exam
- Class Participation

## Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Explain the main competing philosophies underpinning contract law and describe the role of contracts in a historical and social context
- Formulate, present and evaluate oral and written arguments about contract law, drawing upon relevant precedent and policy considerations.

## Assessment task

- Class Participation