



LAWS8030

The Law of Obligations I - Contracts

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

Macquarie Law School

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Abdullah-Al Arif

Contact via iLearn

Tutor

Lisa Spagnolo

Contact via iLearn

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to GradCertLaw or GradDipLaw or Admission to JD

Corequisites

LAWS600 or LAWS8001

Co-badged status

Unit description

A study of the law of contract is fundamental for any law student. In this unit students will study the foundational elements of contract law such as the formation of contract, the characterisation and interpretation of contractual terms, factors which vitiate the formation of a valid contract, the requirement for consideration, privity of contract and the discharge of contractual liabilities. Greater depth of understanding of significant issues in the historical and contemporary development of contract law is achieved through the examination and critique of competing philosophies of contract and international comparisons.

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:

ULO1: Demonstrate a detailed and thorough knowledge of legal principles relating to contract law.

ULO2: Analyse complex factual situations involving contract law and apply relevant legal principles to solving legal problems, including analysis under both domestic contract law

and international contract law.

ULO3: Research, formulate, present and evaluate arguments on complex contract law problems and principles, drawing upon relevant legal authority and policy considerations.

ULO4: Communicate professionally, effectively and in a timely manner, and participate in verbal and non-verbal exchanges with diverse audiences and in diverse contexts.

ULO5: Learn and work independently, meet deadlines, and reflect on performance using feedback to support personal and professional development.

General Assessment Information

All written assessments must be submitted electronically through the link provided in iLearn. This unit will utilise Turnitin plagiarism detection software. Students should carefully check that they submit the correct file for an assessment, as re-submissions will not be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file in error. The design, moderation and feedback of all assessments is in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Procedure (link provided under 'Policies and Procedures' below).

Late Submission Policy

A maximum penalty of five (5) percentage points of the total possible marks will be applied per day to late submissions for up to a maximum of seven calendar days. Tasks that have not been submitted within the maximum number of additional late days will receive a mark of zero. This provision does not apply to online exams or other assessments with a time limit of less than 24 hours. Penalties for late submission will be applied consistently and equitably to all students enrolled in the unit.

Where short-term, serious and unavoidable circumstances have affected their ability to submit an assessment task, a student must submit a formal application for Special Consideration as per the Special Consideration Policy. Students should not request an informal arrangement from their tutor, lecturer or Unit Convenor.

Where an application for Special Consideration is approved, and the outcome is an extension to the due date of a task, submissions that are received after the new due date will be subject to late penalties that are calculated from the new due date. This only applies where the outcome is an extension to the due date – see the Special Consideration Policy for a schedule of all possible outcomes.

Special Consideration

Students should submit applications for Special Consideration electronically via the Service Connect portal, along with the supporting documentation. Before submitting their applications, students should refer to the Special Consideration Policy (link provided under 'Policies and Procedures' below).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Practice-Based Task</u>	40%	No	09/04/2025
<u>Exam</u>	40%	No	Exam Period
<u>Professional Skills</u>	20%	No	Ongoing

Practice-Based Task

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **09/04/2025**

Weighting: **40%**

An assessment on professional skills and knowledge relevant to the unit. This could be a legal or policy brief, a report, an essay, a law reform proposal, legal pleadings or other related professional task. This assessment may require students to prepare a response through research and adhere to discipline-specific scholarly conventions.

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Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

Weighting: **40%**

An invigilated examination. The exam may cover any or all topics and materials covered in the unit.

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Professional Skills

Assessment Type **1**: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task **2**: 0 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will develop essential legal professional skills through structured classroom activities such as oral advocacy, critical reasoning, strategic problem-solving, collaborative work, team leadership, mooting, simulated client consultations, legal presentations or demonstrations, doctrinal analysis and problem solving, and/or collaborative legal research. These activities are designed to develop students' professional capabilities including capacity to communicate legal concepts clearly and engage professionally with diverse audiences in diverse contexts.

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- Research, formulate, present and evaluate arguments on complex contract law problems and principles, drawing upon relevant legal authority and policy considerations.
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¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

Lectures: These commence in Week 1. Lectures will total approximately two hours per week, and consist of: Pre-recorded Lectures uploaded each week; and Live lectures delivered face-to-face on campus and uploaded each week.

Tutorials: These also commence in Week 1. Depending on the enrollment, tutorials run for either (a) one hour per week face-to-face on campus or (b) a two-hour Zoom online tutorial (not every week).

This unit is worth 10 credit points, which equates to 150 hours of work. Therefore, students should expect to commit an average of 10 hours per week to this unit, including all scheduled and unscheduled activities and preparing and executing the assessment tasks.

Resources

The required textbook/s are:

P Radan, J Gooley & I Vickovich, *Principles of Australian Contract Law* (6th ed, 2023 Lexis Nexis)

P Radan, J Gooley & I Vickovich, *Principles of Australian Contract Law: Cases and Materials* (6th ed, 2023 Lexis Nexis)

Additionally, Leganto (on iLearn) will link you to additional required reading, including extracts of K Yin et al. (see below).

Students can purchase these textbooks online from online resellers such as [Booktopia](#), [Amazon](#) and [Zookal](#). Student discounts may be available (see Welcome letter, iLearn).

Additional readings will be accessible through iLearn.

Students require access to a computer, internet with decent speed and a secure/reliable server. The iLearn page contains all Unit requirements and a weekly schedule for teaching, readings and tutorials. Information about all assessment tasks is also available on iLearn.

The following are recommended texts which you may find useful (no need to purchase):

K Yin, S Kozlina, K Green, L Siliquini-Cinelli, E Laryea & L Spagnolo, Contract Law: Cases and Materials (2020, Cambridge University Press) ISBN: 9781108435277

JW Carter, Contract Law in Australia (7th ed, 2018 Lexis Nexis) ISBN: 9780409348316

A Robertson & J Paterson, Principles of Contract Law (6th ed, 2020 Thomson Reuters) ISBN: 9780455243085

N Seddon & R Bigwood, Cheshire & Fifoot Law of Contract (12th Australian ed, 2022 Lexis Nexis) ISBN: 9780409343960

Unit Schedule

Week	Beginning	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic
1	24 February	Introduction to Contracts; International Contract Law Aims, Applicability & Interpretation; Agreement - Offer (Part 1)	Tute 1: Introduction to Contract; International Contract Law Applicability; Offer (Part 1)
2	3 March	Agreement – Offer (Part 2); Acceptance	Tute 2: Agreement – Offer (Part 2); Acceptance
3	10 March	Consideration; Equitable Estoppel; Intention	Tute 3: Consideration
4	17 March	Certainty & Completeness; Capacity; Express Terms (Parts 1, 2 & 3)	Tute 4: Equitable Estoppel; Intention; Certainty & Completeness; Capacity
5	24 March	Express Terms (Part 4 - Parol Evidence Rule); Implied Terms	Tute 5. Express Terms (Parts 1, 2 & 3)
6	31 March	Construction of Terms; Discharge by Agreement	Tute 6: Express Terms (Part 4 - Parol Evidence Rule); Implied Terms
7	7 April	Discharge by Performance; Discharge by Termination for Breach (Parts 1, 2 & 3 – Condition, Warranty)	Tute 7: Construction of Terms; Discharge by Agreement
	14-25 April	Mid-Session Break	

8	28 April	Discharge by Termination for Breach (Parts 4, 5 & 6 – Intermediate Terms, Repudiation, ICL)	Tute 8: Discharge by Performance; Discharge by Termination for Breach (Parts 1, 2 & 3 – Condition, Warranty)
9	5 May	Discharge by Frustration; Mistake; Misrepresentation; Misleading or Deceptive Conduct (Parts 1 & 2)	TUTE 9: Discharge by Termination for Breach (Parts 4, 5 & 6 – Intermediate Terms, Repudiation, ICL); Discharge by Frustration
10	12 May	Duress; Undue Influence; Unconscionability; Unfair terms; Unjust contracts	Misleading or Deceptive Conduct; Misrepresentation
11	19 May	Writing Requirements; Illegality	Duress; Undue Influence; Unconscionability; Unjust contracts
12	26 May	Privacy	Unfair Terms; Illegality
13	2 June	Contracts in the Digital Age; Exam Preparation	Writing Requirements; Privacy

Policies and Procedures

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

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault

- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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

Unit information based on version 2025.03 of the [Handbook](#)