



## COURSE OUTLINE

# LAW203 Contracts A

**Course Coordinator:** Dale Mitchell (dmitchell@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Law and Society

2022 | Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast

**BLENDED  
LEARNING**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

*Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.*

## 1. What is this course about?

### 1.1. Description

The law of contracts underpins commercial life and hence this course is essential to your understanding of the way the law protects economic activity and as a foundation for some of your later courses. Contracts A is the first of two courses examining the Australian law of contract. Taken together, they cover the 'life-cycle' of contracts from their formation to their performance or breach. In this course you will consider rules concerning the formation of contracts, their terms and meaning. You will develop your skills of case reading and analysis.

### 1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
<b>BLENDED LEARNING</b>			
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – On campus and/or online tutorial - 1 hour in weeks 2-6 and 8-13.	1hr	Week 2	11 times
<b>Lecture</b> – On campus lecture - 2 hours in weeks 1-6 and 8-13.	2hrs	Week 1	12 times

### 1.3. Course Topics

This course provides a critical introduction to contract law. It explores the various elements which relate to the formation of a legally-binding contract, the legal validity of parties to a contract, and the means through which contractual terms are established.

#### **What key concepts/content will I learn?**

Introduction to Contract Law

Formation – Agreement

Formation – Intention to Create Legal Relations

Formation – Certainty, Completeness and Formalities

Formation – Consideration

Parties – Capacity, Privity and Assignment

Content – Establishing Contractual Terms

Content – Establishing Contractual Terms

Content – Construction of Terms and Exclusion Clauses

The Nature of Contract and Theories of Contract Law

*Please note the timing and arrangement of topics may change. As is the norm, tutorials usually explore the content covered in the previous week of lectures (i.e. Week 1 lecture topic discussed in the Week 2 tutorial; Week 2 lecture topic discussed in the Week 3 tutorial, etc.).*

## 2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

## 3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

## 4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Analyse facts to identify legal issues raised by those facts.	Empowered
2 Explain the correct principle(s) of law to resolve a factual problem.	Knowledgeable
3 Apply skill of legal reasoning utilising case law and knowledge of Australian contract law to resolve contract disputes based on real world fact scenarios.	Empowered

## 5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

### 5.1. Pre-requisites

LAW102 and enrolled in any Law Program except AR391

### 5.2. Co-requisites

LAW101 and enrolled in AR391

### 5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

### 5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

## 6. How am I going to be assessed?

### 6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

### 6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Beginning in Week 2, students will have an opportunity to receive formative feedback on academic progress by participating in the tutorial program. Weekly tutorial questions are posted at the commencement of the semester, and students have the opportunity to complete these questions and receive both peer and instructor review of this work. Tutorial questions are designed to model real-world advice scenarios, and scaffold students towards developing responses to law assignments and exams.

### 6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Quiz/zes	Individual	20%	30 minutes	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	30%	1800 words	Week 10	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	50%	4 Hours	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

#### All - Assessment Task 1: Contract law Online Quizzes

<b>GOAL:</b>	The goal of this assessment is to assess your ability to engage in legal analysis of simple fact scenarios based on your understanding of the legal principles governing contract law.													
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Quiz/zes													
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Online Quizzes. You will have the opportunity to complete six quizzes, and of these, the four quizzes you score highest in will be counted towards your mark for this assessment. Each of these quizzes is worth a maximum of 5% of your final grade. Quizzes are to be completed prior to commencement of the tutorial covering the material. Ordinarily quizzes will be conducted in weeks 4-6 and 9-11. Any alteration to these dates will be posted on the course site.													
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th></th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Demonstrates a capacity to identify legal issues</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Applies principles derived from case law and/or statute to provide appropriate legal advice by selecting the most appropriate response</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Where relevant, demonstrates an understanding of the wider principles of contract law</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Demonstrates a capacity to identify legal issues	1	2	Applies principles derived from case law and/or statute to provide appropriate legal advice by selecting the most appropriate response	2	3	Where relevant, demonstrates an understanding of the wider principles of contract law	3	
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#### All - Assessment Task 2: Contract law advice

<b>GOAL:</b>	The goal of this assessment is to mirror real world practice by testing your ability to resolve a multi-issue legal problem using the knowledge learnt so far in the course, as well as your skills of legal reasoning.													
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Written Piece													
<b>FORMAT:</b>	This is an individual assignment of 1800 words presented in the format of a memorandum to a Senior Partner.													
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### All - Assessment Task 3: Final Examination

<b>GOAL:</b>	The goal of this assessment is to test your ability to apply the legal principles and theories learned this semester to unseen questions.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	This is an individual assessment. You will have four hours to complete the assessment. You may use any materials to construct an answer to unseen legal problems drawn from any part of the course, in addition to a component focusing on your understanding of the principles and theories underlying Australian contract law.	
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Correct identification of legal issues and case law appropriate to resolve issues <b>1</b>
	2	Able to organise an answer that demonstrates the skill of legal analysis <b>2 3</b>
	3	Demonstrates a developed understanding of the theories and principles governing and underlying Australian contract law <b>3</b>

## 7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

## 8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

### 8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Des Butler, Sharon Christensen, Bill Dixon, Lindy Willmott	2018	Contract Law Casebook	n/a	Oxford University Press, USA
Required	Lindy Willmott, Sharon Christensen, Des Butler, Bill Dixon	2018	Contract Law	n/a	Oxford University Press, USA

### 8.2. Specific requirements

Nil

## 9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

## 10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

### 10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

## 10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

### Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

## 10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

## 10.4. SafeUSC

USC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email [safe@usc.edu.au](mailto:safe@usc.edu.au).

The SafeUSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au).

## 10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au).

## 10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 1226.

## 10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email [AccessAbility@usc.edu.au](mailto:AccessAbility@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 2890.

## 10.8. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

## 10.9. Student Charter

USC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

## 10.10. General Enquiries

### In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

**Tel:** +61 7 5430 2890

**Email:** [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)