

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

**CONTRACTS & UCC
LAW 2300**

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Date Revised: Fall 2011

Catalog Course Description:

Fundamental principles concerning the formation, performance, and enforcement of personal and commercial contracts; sales and secured transactions under the Uniform Commercial Code; and overview of federal and state law regulating credit and collection procedures.

Entry Level Standards:

College-level competencies in logic, reading, and English are required.

Prerequisites:

LAW 1000 for Paralegal Studies Majors

Co-requisites:

None

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Helewitz, Jeffrey A., *Basic Contract Law for Paralegals, 6th Ed.* (Aspen Publishers, 2010).

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Chapter 1 Overview of Contracts (1.0 hour); Basic Contract Requirements (1.0 hour); Classification of Contracts (1.0 hour)
2	Chapter 2 Offer: Definition (1.0 hour); Essential Terms of Offer (1.0 hour); Case Analysis (1.0 hour)
3	Chapter 3 Acceptance: Definition (1.0 hour); Method of Acceptance and Termination of the Ability to accept (1.0 hour); Case Analysis (1.0 hour)
4	Chapter 4 Consideration: Definition (1.0 hour); Sufficiency and Promissory Estoppel (1.0 hour); Special Agreements (accord and satisfaction, charitable subscription, debtor's promises, guarantees, formal contracts) (1.0 hour)
5	Chapter 5 Legality of Subject Matter (1.0 hour); Contractual Capacity (1.0 hour); Case Analysis (1.0 hour)
6	Chapter 6 Intent: fraud and misrepresentation, duress, mistake (2.0 hours); Case Analysis (1.0 hour)
7	Chapter 7 Statute of Frauds (1.0 hour); Covenants and Conditions (1.0 hour); Rules of Construction and Parol Evidence Rule (1.0 hour)

8-9	Chapter 8	The Sales Contract: Formation and Terms under the UCC (2.0 hours); Secured Transactions (1.0 hour)
10	Chapter 9, Handout	Collections Practice (2.0 hours); Third Party Contracts (.50 hour); Assignment and Delegation (.50 hours)
11	Chapter 10	Discharge of Obligations: excuse, performance, breach, agreement, impossibility, supervening illegality, death or destruction, frustration of purpose (3.0 hours)
12	Chapter 11	Remedies: Legal (damages) (1.0 hours); Equitable (1.0 hour); Waiver and Arbitration (1.0 hour)
13-14	Chapter 12	Review of Contracts (3.0 hours); Drafting a Contract (3.0 hours)
15	-----	Final Examination

II. Course Goals*:

The course will:

- A. Expand student understanding of legal ethics. I, III, IV
- B. Introduce the student to legal principles governing contract formation and enforcement. I, II, III, IV, V
- C. Increase the capacity of students to understand the basic law of commercial paper and secured transactions. I, II, III, IV, V
- D. Enable students to collect relevant data and draft initial documents to assist the attorney in commercial cases. I, II, III, IV, V
- E. Introduce the student to the Uniform Commercial Code. I, II, III, IV, V
- F. Introduce the student to the Statutes of Fraud. I, II, III, IV, V
- G. Enhance student understanding of legal terminology. I, II, III, IV

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the Paralegal program (Career Program Goals and General Education Goals are listed: http://www.pstcc.edu/departments/curriculum_and_instruction/syllabi/)

III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*:

Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a complete and thorough understanding of legal ethics. (A)
2. Identify the elements of a contract. (B,E,G)
3. Demonstrate understanding of contracts clauses by drafting various clauses. (B,C,D,E,G)
4. Identify UCC forms. (D,E,F)
5. Identify and compute damages which may be recovered for breach of contract. (A,D,F)
6. Determine when a contract must be in writing to be enforceable. (F)

7. Recognize when purchase money security interest has been created by purchase on credit. (C,E)
8. Determine the priority of claims to a debtor's collateral which is subject to perfected or unperfected security interests. (B,C,D)
9. Recognize and understand the creation and enforcement of sales warranties. (C,D,E)

* Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

IV. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures:

Students are evaluated primarily on the basis of tests. The instructor's policies on exams, quizzes, homework, attendance, and grades will be provided on a supplement to the course syllabus.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

None

C. Field Work:

Students will complete several out-of-class skills projects, which may include:

- Legal writing exercises
- Drafting initial drafts of contracts clauses
- Completing UCC forms
- Research to determine Tennessee's Uniform Commercial Code
- Research to determine Tennessee's statutes of frauds

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

1. Class participation, group work, and homework will also comprise the final grade for the course. The instructor will provide full details the first week of class via a syllabus supplement.
2. All tests and papers will be graded for spelling and English usage in addition to content and format.
3. Any student encountering academic difficulty during the term is strongly encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss options and solutions.

E. Grading Scale:

A	93-100
B+	88- 92
B	83- 87
C+	78- 82
C	73- 77
D	65- 72
F	64 and below

V. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of Academic Affairs.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

C. Accommodations for disabilities:

Students who need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by going to Goins 127, 132, 134, 135, 131 or by phone: 539-7153 or TTY 694-6429. More information is available at <http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/>.

D. Other Policies: