

Community College of Rhode Island
Criminal Justice & Legal Studies Department

Law of Contracts

On-Campus Course Syllabus

(Web-Enhanced through Blackboard)

Instructor: Dr. Daniel J. Donovan
Room 3081 Phone 825-2315
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Web Site: <http://www.donovanlegalstudies.com>

TEXT: Business Law Today: Comprehensive 8th Edition
CCRI Customized Edition with selected chapters
Authors: Miller & Jentz

Course Summary

The course on the Law of Contracts (LAWS 2050) deals with a study of the legal rules controlling voluntary agreements people enter into while conducting their personal and business affairs. Whether one is registering for a class at CCRI, renting an apartment, buying a television set, or ordering tires for an automobile company, the law of contracts is involved. It is important for persons to know their rights and responsibilities regarding contracts, to know when a valid contract has been entered into, and to know what happens when the contract is not performed as expected.

This course will also include a general introduction to the law and the legal system. This information will include the English Common Law, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, Federal Statutes, State Constitutions, and State Statutes. This introductory material should prove helpful to understanding the legal system in general, plus understanding the specific cases and statutes that will be discussed when the contract chapters are covered.

After this introduction, the contract chapters of the business law textbook will be covered in the order listed on the next page. The textbook that is used in this course is also used in the course on the Law of Business Organizations (LAWS 2070).

This is a web-enhanced course as we will be using the Blackboard learning management system as a supplement to the course. All PowerPoint presentations and handouts will be placed on Blackboard for students to review, and all tests and assignments will be through Blackboard.

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Course Reading Assignments*

Handout	Introduction to the Law	
Chapter 8	Nature and Classification of Contracts	p. 230
Chapter 9	Agreement	p. 251
Chapter 10	Consideration	P. 271
Chapter 11	Capacity & Legality	p. 287
Chapter 12	Genuineness of Assent	p. 311
Chapter 13	The Statute of Frauds	P. 327
Chapter 14	Performance and Discharge	p. 346
Chapter 15	Breach & Remedies	p. 364
Chapter 17	E-Contracts and E-Signatures	p. 403

* Individual chapters may be purchased in electronic form at www.ichapters.com

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Course Information and Requirements

Course Testing & Assignments: There will be three multiple choice tests given during the semester, and all three tests must be taken to complete the course. If all three tests are not taken, the student will receive a withdrawal for the course, unless the student has a valid excuse for not completing the tests and arranges with the instructor for an incomplete grade. There will also be two written assignments given during the semester.

Blackboard Learn: Course tests will be taken online through Blackboard and assignments will be submitted there. Tests will be open for one week and assignments will be open for two weeks. Any assignment submitted late or test taken late will have 10 points deducted.

Grading Policy: Each of the three tests will count for one-fourth of the final course grade. The two written assignments count for the remaining 25% of the grade. Beginning with the Fall 2009 semester, CCRI now uses Plus/Minus Grading as set out the college catalog.

Attendance Policy & Grading: The instructor will take attendance for all class sessions. Attendance will be used in grading in two ways. First, if a student's grade is borderline between two grade levels, a good attendance record in that case would result in the student receiving the higher of the two grades. Second, any student who misses more than three weeks worth of the scheduled class sessions will have their final grade for the course reduced by one full grade level, and any student who misses five weeks worth of the scheduled class sessions will receive a withdrawal for the course. Each evening class session, which meets only once a week, will be counted as two classes. If a student leaves an evening class after a break, this will be counted as one absence.

Voice Mail & E-Mail: If a student needs to get in touch with the instructor, he or she may leave a voice mail message at 825-2315 at the Warwick Campus of CCRI. The instructor's office is in Room 3081 at the CCRI Warwick Campus. The instructor's e-mail address is: ddonovan@ccri.edu. Use of e-mail is encouraged as it is easier for the instructor to respond to questions or requests at any time.

Classroom Behavior: It is the responsibility of the instructor to protect the learning environment in the classroom from disruptive behavior for the benefit of all of the students in the class. Examples of disruptive behavior include: sleeping in class, talking between students or passing notes, excessive or chronic lateness, grandstanding, use of cell phones for text messaging or otherwise (which shall be turned off or set on vibrate during class), verbal or physical threats, and derogatory language. The instructor reserves the right to ask a student to leave class due to disruptive behavior, eject a student from the course, or mark down a student's grade as may be appropriate for the circumstances in the sole discretion of the instructor. Student will not use a laptop computer in the classroom without first obtaining permission from the instructor.

About the Instructor: Professor Daniel J. Donovan holds a law degree (Juris Doctor) from Rutgers Law School in New Jersey. Prior to law school, he received a degree in political science from Villanova University in Pennsylvania. He was admitted to practice as a lawyer in Rhode Island in 1972. He was involved in continuing legal education for lawyers for 12 years and authored several books and pamphlets for lawyers including "Title Searching in Rhode Island" and "R.I. Landlord & Tenant Law". Your instructor has taught at CCRI full time since 1989 teaching business law, paralegal studies, and law enforcement courses, and had previously taught part-time at CCRI and other colleges. Your instructor is the author of five textbooks: Legal Research in Rhode Island, Survey of the Law of Property & Estates, Civil Procedure for R.I. Paralegals, Survey of RI Law of Torts, and Introduction to Paralegal Studies.