

Module 3 Law of Contract

Stage				1			
Semester				1			
Module Title				Law of Contract			
Module Number				3			
Module Status				Mandatory			
Module ECTS Credits				5			
Module NFQ level				Level 7			
Pre-Requisite Module Titles				n/a			
Co-Requisite Module Titles				n/a			
Capstone Module?				No			
List of Module Teaching Personnel				Edward Mathews			
Contact Hours				Non-contact Hours			Total Effort (hours)
21				79			100
Lecture	Practical	Tutorial	Seminar	Assignment	Placement	Independent Work	
15		6				79	100
Allocation of Marks (Within the Module)							
	Continuous Assessment	Project	Practical	Final Examination	Total		
Percentage Contribution		40		60	100		

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, learners should be able to:

1. Discuss the fundamental doctrines and principles of the law of contract.
2. Identify what constitutes a legally binding agreement for the purpose of the law of contract.
3. Define the terms which can constitute the contents of a contract including the role of the Constitution with regard to implied terms.
4. Define what factors may render an otherwise valid contract void or voidable.
5. Identify how a contract may be terminated.
6. Explain the remedies available within the Law of Contract.
7. Apply contract law theory to different factual situations.

Module Objectives

This module aims to:

- Develop learners' understanding of the fundamental doctrines and principles of the law of contract.
- Inform learners of what is required for the basic formation of a contract, other terms which may be included, how contracts can be rendered void/voidable, how they may be brought to an end and the remedies available for breach of contract.
- Promote an appreciation of the balance achieved by the courts in protecting legitimate interests and individual's freedom of exercise in trade and business.
- Evolve a clear understanding of the performance of contractual obligations and the discharge of liability.
- Develop a working knowledge of the remedies available in contract law.
- Enable learners to apply contract law theory to different factual situations.

Module Curriculum

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Formation of a Contract	Offer, acceptance, intention to create legal relations, consideration, capacity to contract.
Contents of a Contract	The Constitution and implied terms; express terms, conditions, warranties, exclusion and limitation clauses.
Void and Voidable Contracts	Illegal contracts, void contracts, duress, undue influence, misrepresentation, and mistake.
Termination of Contract	Performance, breach, frustration
Remedies	Damages, specific performance, rescission.

Reading lists and other learning materials

1. Griffith College Manual, *Contract Law* (Dublin: Clarus Press, updated annually)
2. Cheshire, Fifoot and Furmston, *Law of Contract* (2012, Oxford; Oxford University Press)
3. Clarke, *Contract Law in Ireland* (2013, Dublin; Round Hall);
4. Enright, *Principles of Irish Contract Law* (2007, Dublin; Clarus Press);
5. Friel, *The Law of Contract* (2000, Dublin; Round Hall)
6. McDermott, *Contract Law* (2001, Dublin; Tottel Publishing)

Module Learning Environment

Accommodation

In line with other higher education awards offered by the College, the Special Purpose Diploma in Legal Studies and Practice, will provide reasonably comparable resources and accommodation requirements, all of which can be met by facilities on campus.

At the moment, a base classroom is used for teaching purposes at both the Dublin and Cork campuses. Participants also have access to online teaching resources and Moodle¹ and an e-learning studio. It is not proposed that these arrangements be changed as they are continuing to operate successfully.

In addition, all lectures are recorded and posted on the relevant Moodle page, providing students with the opportunity to watch lectures at a later date if they are unable to attend the lecture or wish to review the lecture.

Library

All learners have access to an extensive range of “actual” and “remote access” library resources. The library monitors and updates its resources on an ongoing basis, in line with the College’s Library Acquisition Policy. Lecturers update reading lists for this programme on an annual basis as is the norm with all courses run by Griffith College.

Equipment, Information & Communication Technology

The College is already fully resourced with the necessary teaching equipment – such as a base class room fully equipped with PC, audio and visual presentation facilities and projectors.

Further resources such as video recording equipment are also available for use on the programme. Participants may also use the College’s other computer labs, open labs and the e-learning studio. The College’s IT Services Department and the Lecturer Support Unit also support this process by continually updating classrooms and PC labs. Proposals for the acquisition of new technologies are made to the IT Services Department and to the Director of Academic Programmes, so that academic and technical issues are considered.

¹ Moodle is Griffith College’s current Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

Extensive use is also made of the Moodle VLE for posting lecture notes and other relevant material used for study and revision. With the aid of data projectors, these can form the basis of lecture presentations.

Module Teaching and Learning Strategy

This module will be delivered through a series of lectures and tutorials.

This module comprises of twenty-one contact hours, being fifteen lecture hours, five tutorial hours and one revision/exam preparation class.

Each class will comprise three hours of lectures and a one-hour tutorial.

Tutorials will comprise the review of past exam papers, class discussions, group work sessions and exercises.

Lectures and tutorials will be supplemented by structured web-based resources and reading.

Module Assessment Strategy

Theoretical knowledge will be assessed at the end of the module by examination (60%), the purpose of which is to enable learners to become accustomed to undertaking extended examinations which are a traditional method of assessment commonly used in law-based degrees on the National Framework of Qualifications and in the sphere of professional legal training. The examination will consist of a mixture of essay style questions, which place emphasis on the learners demonstrating academic legal knowledge as well as discursive legal writing skills, and problem style questions which assess the learner's ability to apply the law to practical factual scenarios. Formative assessment will be provided in the form of interactive exercises such as mini quizzes or directed class discussion topics.

The examination will be supplemented by an Assignment worth 40% of the overall grade enabling learners to utilise their learning from class based work and to develop their legal research, problem solving, independent learning, initiative skills and professional analytical capacity. The Assignment focuses on a matter of practical importance in the field of Irish Contract Law.

Sample Assessment with Rubrics

See Sample Assessment attached.