

LAW 512 - CONTRACTS II

Spring 2026 Syllabus

Course Number: LAW 512-002

Credit Hours: 3

Meeting Time: Tuesday/Thursday, 3:00-4:15 PM

Location: Lesar Hall 0108 (Courtroom)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Professor: Thomas Reichert

Office: Lesar Law Building, Room 238

Email: tomreich@siu.edu

Office Hours:

- Wednesday: 2:00-5:00 PM (in-person)
- By appointment

D2L Course Site: <https://mycourses.siu.edu/d2l/login/>

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Primary Text (Required):

- Knapp, Charles L., et al. *Problems in Contract Law: Cases and Materials* (10th ed.)
- **Available in several formats. Any of the following are acceptable:**
 - Connected eBook with Study Center + Hardcover: ISBN 9781543856309
 - Connected eBook with Study Center (Digital Only): ISBN 9798886144130
 - eBook + Study Center + Audiobook: ISBN 9798894114804
 - eBook + Study Center + Audiobook + Hardcover: ISBN 9798894113968

Additional Resources:

- Course materials posted on D2L
- In-class exercise handouts (distributed during class)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course, the second of a two-part sequence, continues the study of fundamental principles of contract law. Building on the foundation established in Contracts I, we will explore implied contract terms and the obligation of good faith, warranties, and the various defenses to contract enforcement including minority, duress, undue influence, misrepresentation, unconscionability, and public policy. We will examine justifications for nonperformance such as mistake, impossibility, impracticability, and frustration of purpose. The course then covers contract performance, conditions, material breach, and anticipatory repudiation, followed by comprehensive treatment of contract remedies including expectation damages, reliance damages, restitution, specific performance, and agreed remedies. Special attention will be paid to the changes in basic contract law with respect to contracts involving the sale of goods under Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code (U.C.C.).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and apply implied contract terms, including the obligation of good faith.
- Analyze and apply the various defenses to contract enforcement, including minority, duress, undue influence, misrepresentation, unconscionability, and public policy.
- Evaluate justifications for nonperformance such as mistake, impossibility, impracticability, and frustration of purpose.
- Identify and apply the doctrines of express conditions, material breach, and anticipatory repudiation.
- Calculate and apply the various measures of contract damages, including expectation, reliance, and restitution.
- Evaluate when equitable remedies such as specific performance are appropriate.
- Distinguish between the common law of contracts and the rules governing the sale of goods under UCC Article 2.
- Develop their professional identity as it relates to client advocacy in the field of Contract Law.
- Prepare for bar examination questions covering Contracts topics.

BAR EXAMINATION PREPARATION

Contracts is a foundational subject on the bar examination. It is one of the seven subjects tested on the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) and is regularly tested on the Multistate Essay Examination (MEE). The topics covered in this course, including defenses to formation, excuse doctrines, breach, and remedies, are essential components of both exams. A detailed outline of bar-tested topics is available on D2L.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY: THE SOCRATIC METHOD

This course employs the Socratic method, a cornerstone of legal education. All students are potentially on call for every class session and should come to class fully prepared to discuss all assigned materials.

Random Selection Process:

For each class session and/or case, the professor will randomly select anywhere from 1 to 10 students to respond to questions. The selection process is truly random, meaning:

- A student may be called on at any draw throughout the semester
- A student may be called multiple times within a single class period
- A student may be called for consecutive cases or back-to-back sessions
- A student may, by chance, not be called for extended periods

On-Call Expectations:

When called upon, students should be prepared to:

- Present comprehensive case analysis including facts, procedural history, holding, and reasoning
- Answer detailed questions about the case and related legal principles
- Apply holdings to hypothetical scenarios
- Connect cases to broader doctrinal themes

Grading On-Call Performance:

On-call performance will be evaluated holistically across the semester based on preparedness, quality of analysis, and engagement when called upon. The professor retains discretion in assigning on-call grades.

GRADING STRUCTURE

Grade Components:

- On-Call Performance: 10%
- Midterm Examination: 15%
- Final Examination: 75%
- **Total: 100%**

SIUC School of Law Grading Scale:

- A+/A: 4.000
- A-: 3.667
- B+: 3.333
- B: 3.000
- B-: 2.667
- C+: 2.333
- C: 2.000
- C-: 1.667
- D+: 1.333
- D: 1.000
- F: 0.000

Mandatory Grading Curve:

This course adheres to SIUC School of Law grading regulations for first-year courses:

- **Course Mean:** Must fall between 2.7 and 2.9
- **A+ Awards:** Maximum of one A+ grade will be awarded to the highest performing student
- **Mandatory Grade Distribution (Rule III.1(c)):** The grades awarded in a first-year course must fall within the following percentage ranges:

Grade	GPA	Required Percentage Range
A+/A	4.000	6-10%
A-	3.667	8-12%
B+	3.333	15-21%
B	3.000	17-23%
B-	2.667	9-15%
C+	2.333	7-13%
C	2.000	4-10%
C-	1.667	3-7%
D+	1.333	2-6%
D	1.000	0-5%
F	0.000	0-5%

All students are evaluated relative to their peers. Final grades are subject to the mandatory curve and cannot be negotiated.

EXAMINATIONS

Midterm Examination (15%)

- **Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026
- **Format:** Essay questions only
- **Coverage:** Implied Terms, Defenses, and Excuse (Classes 1-14)
- **Duration:** Full class period
- **Administration:** In-class via D2L

Final Examination (75%)

- **Date:** During Finals Week (April 28 - May 2 & May 4 - May 8, 2026, per law school schedule)
- **Format:** Mixed multiple-choice and essay questions
- **Coverage:** Comprehensive (all course material)
- **Duration:** 3 hours
- **Administration:** In-class via D2L

Examination Policies:

- All examinations are closed book—no materials permitted.
- Examinations must be taken at the scheduled times. No makeup examinations will be given except as mandated by law school policy.
- LockDown Browser will be required for all examinations.
- Statistical analysis will be conducted to ensure examination integrity.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Law School Requirement: Students may miss no more than **four (4) class sessions** (twice the number of weekly meetings). Students exceeding this limit are **ineligible to take the final examination** and will receive a failing grade.

Tracking: Attendance is tracked through:

1. Sign-in sheet (mandatory signature required)
2. On-call participation records
3. In-class exercise submissions

Students must attend the **entire class period** to receive attendance credit. Early departure without prior approval results in an absence.

Excused Absences: Documentation required for:

- Illness (including COVID-19 or other contagious diseases)
- Family emergencies
- Religious observances
- Law school-sanctioned activities

Note: If you are ill, particularly with a contagious disease, DO NOT attend class. Notify the professor immediately.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Laptop Use:

- Laptops permitted for note-taking purposes only
- Misuse includes: web browsing, email, messaging, gaming, or any non-class activity
- **Professor reserves absolute discretion to ban laptop use for any or all students at any time**
- Violations may result in grade reduction or removal from class

Other Devices:

- Smartphones must be silenced and stored out of sight
- Smartwatches must be in airplane mode
- No audio recording or photography permitted (Illinois two-party consent law)
- Earbuds/headphones prohibited during class

Recording Policy:

Law School Recording: All law school classes are officially recorded by SIUC School of Law for student access through authorized platforms.

Student Recording Prohibition: Students are STRICTLY PROHIBITED from making their own recordings (audio, video, or photographic) of any class sessions. Illinois is a two-party consent state, and the professor does not consent to any personal recording.

Violations result in:

1. Immediate ejection from class
2. Referral to Student Honor Code proceedings
3. Potential course failure

Access to official law school recordings is governed by law school policy and available through D2L.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are bound by the SIUC School of Law Honor Code. Violations include but are not limited to:

- Plagiarism in any form
- Unauthorized collaboration
- Use of unauthorized materials during examinations
- Misrepresentation of attendance or participation
- Any form of academic dishonesty

Examination Security:

- Answer patterns are statistically analyzed and compared across all students
- Suspicious patterns trigger mandatory oral examination
- Professor retains discretion to require alternative assessments

Confirmed violations result in:

- Minimum: Zero on affected assessment
- Maximum: Course failure and Honor Code proceedings

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

As future members of the legal profession, students must maintain professional standards:

Classroom Behavior:

- Arrive on time and prepared
- Respectful engagement with all participants
- No disruptive activities (side conversations, eating noisy foods)
- Professional attire encouraged but not required

Communication:

- Use SIU email only (non-SIU emails will not receive responses)
- Professional tone in all communications
- Allow 24-48 hours for email responses (excluding weekends/holidays)
- Check D2L announcements before emailing questions

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with documented disabilities should register with Disability Support Services and provide documentation within the first two weeks of class. Religious accommodations and other legitimate needs should be communicated early in the semester for appropriate arrangements.

SIU Disability Support Services: disabilityservices@siu.edu | (618) 453-5738

IMPORTANT DATES (Subject to Change)

- **First Class:** Tuesday, January 13, 2026
- **Midterm Exam:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026
- **Spring Break:** March 7-15, 2026
- **Last Class:** Thursday, April 23, 2026
- **Final Exam Period:** April 28 - May 2 & May 4 - May 8, 2026

COURSE MODIFICATIONS

The professor reserves the right to modify any aspect of this syllabus. Changes will be announced in class and posted on D2L. Students are responsible for staying informed of all modifications.

DISCLAIMER

Professor Reichert is a practicing attorney and owner of Reichert Legal Services. Nothing communicated in this course constitutes legal advice, creates an attorney-client relationship, or represents the views of Reichert Legal Services or its attorneys. Students requiring legal assistance should contact:

Students' Legal Assistance Office

<https://studentlegal.siu.edu/> | sladesk@siu.edu | (618) 536-6677

Land of Lincoln Legal Aid

509 South University Avenue, Third Floor
Carbondale, IL 62901 | (618) 457-7800

Last Updated: December 30, 2025