# LAW OF AGENCY, INSURANCE & CREDIT AGREEMENTS 2011

The Law of Agency, Insurance & Credit Agreements is a final year LLB credit. Agency lectures are scheduled to take place approximately during the period 28 July to 2 September, Insurance lectures are scheduled to take place approximately during the period 8 September to 14 October, and Credit Agreements lectures are scheduled to take place approximately during the period 20 October to 28 October. For the purposes of coherence, each component of the course is discussed separately below, in order to explain more specifically the nature of each component.

#### A AGENCY

## **INTRODUCTION**

#### Overview

The purpose of the agency portion of the course is to provide insight into the nature and function of the law of agency in South Africa. More particularly:

- To provide students with a thorough understanding of the essential elements of a contract of agency and how the agency contract differs from other forms of contract.
- To provide students with a thorough understanding of the sources of agency power.
- To ensure that students are aware of the legal duties imposed upon principals and agents and the consequences that may flow if these duties are breached.
- To make students aware of the special requirements that attach to certain special forms of agency relationships, especially those regulated by statute.
- To assist students in being able to identify and solve authentic legal problems with regard to agency contracts.
- To familiarise students with legal concepts and terminology commonly encountered in the law of agency.

#### **Credit Value**

5 Credits.

# **Assumptions of Prior Learning**

In order to successfully complete this portion of the course, students must be able to:

- Write and communicate in coherent English.
- Know how and where to access resources such as textbooks, law reports and statutes in the Law Library.

- Have a working knowledge of the general principles of the law of contract.
- Be capable of independent learning.
- Read, analyse and extract principles from law reports and other source material.
- Understand the system of judicial precedent and the important role precedent plays in private law.
- Have a developed understanding of legal problem-solving techniques.

## **OUTCOMES**

#### **Critical Outcomes**

#### Students must be able to:

- Identify and solve practical legal problems.
- Organise and manage themselves and their work load.
- Collect, analyse and evaluate information from the various sources of law, as well as information conveyed during lectures.
- Communicate effectively in class discussions and written assignments.
- Use technology in legal research.
- Recognise problem-solving contexts involving the law of agency.

## **Intended Specific Outcomes for Agency**

For successfully completion of this portion of the course students should be able to achieve the following outcomes.

#### Students must be able to:

- Understand and explain the essential elements of a valid contract of agency, and how the agency contract differs from other forms of contract.
- Understand and explain the sources of agency power.
- Understand and explain the legal duties that are imposed upon principals and agents in terms of the principal-agent relationship, as well as the consequences if such duties are breached.
- Understand and explain the relationship between a principal and the third party.
- Understand and explain the relationship between an agent and the third party.
- Understand and explain the features of certain special forms of agency relationship, especially those regulated by statute.
- Understand and explain how and when a contract of agency is terminated.
- Apply the knowledge acquired during the course to solve practical problems with regard to agency contracts.

#### TEACHING METHOD

Course content and the application of such content will be addressed through discussions during lectures. Students are provided with a course document that contains a detailed structure of the course. This structure divides the course into "topics" with prescribed reading material listed under each topic. Discussions during lectures will follow the structural sequence of topics as set out in the course document. Students are expected to read and analyse prescribed reading material before it is addressed in discussions during lectures. Lecture attendance is compulsory and an attendance register will be circulated during lectures. Students are expected to keep their own records of the number of lectures that they have not attended. Refer to pages 44-47 of the Survival Guide for information and requirements regarding DPs and LOAs.

#### **COURSE CONTENT**

- 1. Introduction to the Law of Principal and Agent
  - Meaning, nature and formation of a contract of agency
  - Nature of the relationship between principal and agent
  - To distinguish: Agency, Mandate, Representation, Employment
  - The meaning of "Agent" in the strict sense as opposed to other "kinds" of "agents"
  - Formalities
- 2. Sources (origin and extent) of agency power
  - Actual authority: Express Authority and Implied Authority
  - Authority by operation of law
  - Apparent authority and Estoppel
  - Ratification
- 3. Legal Effect of Agency:
  - Principal-Agent Relationship
    - Duties of Agents; Delegation of Agency Power
    - Duties of Principals
    - Variation of Duties
  - The Relationship of Principals and Agents with Third Parties
    - The Relationship
    - Kinds of Principals (Named, Unnamed, Undisclosed, Fictitious, Principals not yet in being)
    - Misrepresentation, Non-disclosure and Agent acting in his/her own interest
- 4. Termination of Principal-Agent Relationship

# RESOURCES

The following sources: *LAWSA* Vol 17 "Mandate and Negotiorum Gestio"; AJ Kerr The Law of Agency 4th edition (2006); Peter Havenga *et al General Principles of Commercial Law*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed (2004); Robert Sharrock *Business Transactions Law* 6<sup>th</sup> ed, Juta & Co, (2004); and Du Bois *et al Wille's Principles of South African Law* 9<sup>th</sup> ed (Juta).

# STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Specific Outcomes (On completion of this course, the student should be able to:)  Understand and explain the essential elements of a valid contract of agency, and how the agency contract differs from other forms of contract.	Assessment Criteria (What evidence must the student provide to show that they are competent? The student must be able to:)  - Define the essential elements of a contract of agency, and how agency, mandate and representation differ.  - Describe and explain the requirements that have to be satisfied for these elements to exist.	Assessment Tasks (The evidence will be gathered in the following way. The student may be expected to:)  - Write short essays, supported by authority, explaining the requirements that have to be met for one of the elements to be satisfied, and how mandate, representation and agency intermediate.
	- Demonstrate an understanding of the court decisions that have authoritatively determined what the various elements and requirements are.	interrelate.  - Write case notes on the leading precedents discussed and examined during the course.  - Solve authentic legal problems with regard to agency contracts.
Understand and explain the sources of agency power.	<ul> <li>Discuss the sources of agency power.</li> <li>Demonstrate an understanding of the court decisions that have authoritatively determined what the law is with regard to these various sources of power.</li> </ul>	- Write short essays, supported by authority, explaining one or another of these sources Write case notes on the leading precedents discussed and examined during the course Solve authentic legal problems with regard to agency contracts.
Understand and explain the legal duties that are imposed upon principals and agents, and the consequences that flow if these duties are breached.	<ul> <li>Define the various legal duties.</li> <li>Describe and explain how these duties impact upon principals and agents respectively.</li> <li>Demonstrate an understanding of the court decisions that have authoritatively determined what</li> </ul>	- Write short essays, supported by authority, explaining the various legal duties imposed upon principals and agents respectively, and the remedies available where such duties are breached Solve authentic legal

	these legal duties are.	problems with regard to
	- Describe and explain the	agency contracts.
	remedies that may flow if these	
	duties are breached.	
Understand and explain the features of	- Discuss the important or	- Write short essays,
certain special forms of agency	unique features of	supported by authority,
relationship, especially those regulated	special/common agency	explaining the legal features
by statute.	relationship.	of special forms of agency
	- Discuss the legal requirements	contract or agency contracts
	that attach to certain common	regulated by statute.
	forms of agency relationships	- Solve authentic legal
	regulated by statutory	problems with regard to
	enactments and constitutional	agency contracts.
	principles.	
Apply the knowledge acquired during	- Identify the relevant legal	- Write judgments or
the course to solve practical problems	problem or issue.	opinions in which a practical
with regard to agency contracts.	- State the relevant law, and	problem is analysed and
	discuss the relevant legal	•
	precedents with regard to that	
	issue.	1
	- Apply the law to the facts in	
	order to come to a reasoned	
	conclusion about the problem,	
	and the legal remedies that	
	might flow from the finding.	

## **Assessment Strategy**

The final mark for the Agency module is comprised of the following components:

Examination: 35 marks out of a 70 mark examination. Class work: 15 marks out of a class mark of 30.

These totals will be added to the results in the Insurance and Credit modules and converted into a percentage (see the comment on the examination below).

# **Agency Assignment**

There is one assignment for the Agency module. There is no test for the Agency module. The assignment will constitute the class work component (counting 15 marks) for the Agency module. The assignment topic and due date will be communicated to students in due course.

## **Examination**

One two-hour paper will be written in November. The examination will be out of 70 marks. The Agency component is out of 35. The questions will require students both to be able to explain legal rules and principles in a theoretical sense as well as to apply their knowledge to solving practical problems in authentic contexts. The examination is compulsory. An external examiner assesses the quality of both the examination paper and the students' answers.

#### **EVALUATION**

This course is evaluated as part of the global evaluation of LLB courses conducted at the end of each semester.

#### B INSURANCE

#### INTRODUCTION

#### Overview

The purpose of the insurance portion of the course is to provide insight into the nature and function of the law of insurance in South Africa. More particularly:

- To provide students with a thorough understanding of the essential elements of a contract of insurance, and how the insurance contract differs from other forms of contract.
- To provide students with a thorough understanding of the legal effects of a contract of insurance.
- To ensure that students are aware of the legal duties imposed upon the insurer and the insured, and the consequences that may flow if these duties are breached.
- To make students aware of the special requirements imposed by statute that attach to certain forms of insurance contract.
- To ensure that students understand the application of the Road Accident Fund Act.
- To assist students in being able to identify and solve authentic legal problems with regard to insurance contracts and claims from the Road Accident Fund.
- To familiarise students with legal concepts and terminology commonly encountered in the law of insurance and in Road Accident Fund claims.

# **Credit Value**

## 3.5 Credits.

## **Assumptions of Prior Learning**

In order successfully to complete this portion of the course, students need to be able to:

- Be capable of writing and communicating in coherent English.
- Know how and where to access resources such as textbooks, law reports and statutes in the Law Library.
- Have a working knowledge of the general principles of the law of insurance..
- Be capable of independent learning.
- Read, analyse and extract principles from law reports and other source material.
- Understand the system of judicial precedent, and the important role precedent plays in private law.
- Have a developed understanding of legal problem-solving techniques.

## **OUTCOMES**

#### **Critical Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

- (a) identify and solve practical legal problems.
- (b) organise and manage themselves and their work load.
- (c) collect, analyse and evaluate information from the various sources of law, as well as information conveyed in the classroom environment.
- (d) communicate effectively in class debate and written assignments.
- (e) use technology in legal research.
- (f) recognise problem-solving contexts involving the law of insurance.

# **Intended Specific Outcomes for Insurance**

The Insurance portion of the course is designed so that students successfully completing this portion of the course should be able to achieve the following outcomes. The student should be able to:

- (a) Understand and explain the essential elements of a valid contract of insurance.
- (b) Understand and explain some of the key legal consequences of entering into a contract of insurance.
- (c) Understand and explain the legal duties that are imposed upon the insurer and the insured, and the consequences that flow if these duties are breached.
- (d) Understand and explain how certain statutes regulate insurance law.
- (e) Understand and explain the scope and application of the Road Accident Fund Act.
- (f) Apply the knowledge acquired during the course to solve practical problems with regard to insurance contracts and claims from the Road Accident Fund.

#### TEACHING METHODS

The course will be presented by means of *viva voce* lectures. There is a relatively thorough handout for the course, which the students receive, and which provides the basic structure of the lectured course. The handout is not comprehensive, though: some topics will be covered orally in class only, and students will be expected to take their own notes in lectures to supplement the handout. In lectures, the substantive law (both common law and statute law) will be discussed, leading precedents from the case law will be analysed, and the views of leading academic commentators will be explained. Occasionally, students will be expected to explain case law or statutes and consider practical questions in class. Students are expected to assume responsibility for their learning by reading ahead before each lecture, and consolidating afterwards. Lectures are compulsory. The normal Faculty regulations concerning lecture attendance and DP certificates apply. Students are expected to keep their own records of the number of lectures that they have not attended. There are no tutorials in this portion of the course.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

## General Insurance Law

- A. Introduction
- B. Formation of the Insurance Contract
- C. Insurable Interest
- D. Duty to Disclose Material Facts
- E. Warranties
- F. Duration of the Insurance Contract
- G. The Agent
- H. The Risk
- I. Subrogation
- J. Reinstatement
- K. Loss
- L. Over-insurance and Under-insurance
- M. Double Insurance
- N. Prescription of Claims

## Road Accident Fund

- A. Introduction
- B. When will the Fund be Liable?
- C. Limited Liability: Conveyance of Passengers
- D. Exclusion of Liability
- E. Proposed amendments to the Act
- F. Right of Recourse by the Fund
- G. Procedural Requirements
- H. Prescription of Claims
- I. Effect of the Consumer Protection Act on road accident claims

# **RESOURCES**

The core reading and study material for this course are the leading judgments and statutes on the aspects of the law of insurance to be studied. These cases may be found in the law reports, which may be accessed in the Law Library, both in paper and electronic form. For a full list of cases, see the course handout. The statutes are accessible either in printed or electronic form.

As far as textbooks are concerned, recommended texts are:

## General Insurance Law

M Reinecke *et al General Principles of Insurance Law* (2002), LexisNexis Butterworths: Durban. (this is the book reproducing the LAWSA chapter referred to below).

M Reinecke et al 'Insurance' in WA Joubert (ed) The Law of South Africa Vol 12 (2002), Butterworths: Durban.

DM Davis Gordon and Getz: The South African Law of Insurance (1993), 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Juta: Cape Town.

# Road Accident Fund

H Daniels Road Accident Fund Practitioners Guide (2004), available on My Lexis Nexis under 'Motor Law'.

M Reinecke et al 'Insurance' in WA Joubert (ed) The Law of South Africa Vol 12 (2002), Butterworths: Durban.

The Road Accident Fund website: www.raf.co.za

Occasionally, students will be referred to pertinent journal articles on aspects of the course content. These may also be found in the Law Library.

Students are strongly advised to utilise these resources in the course of their studies.

# STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Specific Outcomes (On completion of this course, the student should be able	Assessment Criteria (What evidence must the student	Assessment Tasks (The evidence will be gathered in
to:)	provide to show that they are	the following way. The
	competent? The student must	student may be expected
	be able to:)	to:)
Understand and explain the essential	- Define the essential elements	- Write short essays,
elements of a valid contract of	of a contract of insurance.	supported by authority,
insurance.	- Describe and explain the	explaining the requirements
	requirements that have to be	that have to be met for one of
	satisfied for these elements to	the elements to be satisfied.
	exist.	- Write case notes on the
	- Demonstrate an understanding	leading precedents discussed
	of the court decisions that have	and examined during the
	authoritatively determined what	course.
	the various elements and	
	requirements are.	
Understand and explain some of the key	- Discuss some of the important	- Write short essays,
legal consequences of entering into a	consequences of entering into a	supported by authority,
contract of insurance.	contract of insurance, and the	explaining one or another of
	legal problems that can be	the legal consequences of
	associated with these issues.	entering into an insurance
	- Demonstrate an understanding	contract.
	of the court decisions that have	- Write case notes on the
	authoritatively determined what	leading precedents discussed
	the law is with regard to these	and examined during the
	legal consequences.	course.

Understand and explain the legal duties that are imposed upon the insurer and the insured, and the consequences that flow if these duties are breached.	- Define the various legal duties Describe and explain how these duties impact upon the insurer and insured respectively Demonstrate an understanding of the court decisions that have authoritatively determined what these legal duties are Describe and explain the remedies that may flow if these duties are breached.	- Write short essays, supported by authority, explaining the various legal duties imposed upon the insurer and insured respectively, and the remedies available where such duties are breached.
Understand and explain how certain statutes regulate insurance law.	- Discuss the important or unique features of the Short-Term and Long-Term Insurance Acts Discuss the legal requirements that attach to contracts concluded in terms of this legislation.	- Write short essays, supported by authority, explaining the legal features of insurance contracts concluded in terms of this legislation.
Understand and explain the scope and application of the Road Accident Fund Act.	<ul> <li>Describe the purpose of this legislation.</li> <li>Discuss the important features of this legislation.</li> <li>Explain how and in what circumstances a claim can be brought against the Road Accident Fund.</li> <li>Explain the impact of the Consumer Protection Act on road accident claims.</li> </ul>	- Write short essays, supported by authority, explaining the legal features of this legislation Write short essays, supported by authority, explaining how, and in what circumstances, a claim may be brought against the Fund.
Apply the knowledge acquired during the course to solve practical problems with regard to insurance contracts and claims from the Road Accident Fund.	<ul> <li>Identify the relevant legal problem or issue.</li> <li>State the relevant law, and discuss the relevant legal precedents with regard to that issue.</li> <li>Apply the law to the facts in order to come to a reasoned conclusion about the problem, and the legal remedies that might flow from the finding.</li> </ul>	- Write judgments or opinions in which a practical problem is analysed and solved on the basis of the relevant law and precedents.

# **Assessment Strategy**

The final mark for the Insurance module is comprised of the following components:

Examination: 20 marks out of a 70 mark examination. Class work: 15 marks out of a class mark of 30.

These totals will be added to the results in the Agency module and converted into a percentage (see the comment on the examination below).

#### **Insurance Test**

There is one test for the Insurance module, which is written late in the fourth term. The test will be out of 15 marks, and students have 5 minutes reading time, and 40 minutes in which to complete the test. The test is written in a class period. The test will contain questions equivalent to that which may be found in the November examination, and will require the students to apply their knowledge to solve a legal problem. The test is compulsory.

#### Examination

One two-hour paper will be written in November. The examination will be out of 70 marks, of which Insurance will count 20 marks. The questions will require students both to be able to explain legal rules and principles in a theoretical sense as well as to apply their knowledge to solving practical problems in authentic contexts. The examination is compulsory. An external examiner assesses the quality of both the examination paper and the students' answers.

#### **EVALUATION**

This course is evaluated as part of the global evaluation of LLB courses conducted at the end of each semester.

## C CREDIT AGREEMENTS

## **INTRODUCTION**

#### Overview

The purpose of the credit agreements portion of the course is to provide insight into the nature and function of credit law in South Africa. More particularly:

- To provide the students with a thorough understanding of the core elements of credit agreements as defined in the National Credit Act.
- To ensure students are aware of the consequences of concluding a credit agreement.
- To ensure students are aware of some of the key practical consequences of the National Credit Act in so far as debt review and summary judgment is concerned.

## **Credit Value**

## 1.5 Credits.

# **Assumptions of Prior Learning**

In order successfully to complete this portion of the course, students need to be able to:

- Be capable of writing and communicating in coherent English.
- Know how and where to access resources such as textbooks, law reports and statutes in the Law Library.
- Have a working knowledge of the general principles of the law relating to credit agreements.
- Be capable of independent learning.
- Read, analyse and extract principles from law reports and other source material.
- Understand the system of judicial precedent, and the important role precedent plays in private law.
- Have a developed understanding of legal problem-solving techniques.

#### **OUTCOMES**

#### **Critical Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

- (a) identify and solve practical legal problems.
- (b) organise and manage themselves and their work load.
- (c) collect, analyse and evaluate information from the various sources of law, as well as information conveyed in the classroom environment.
- (e) communicate effectively in class debate and written assignments.

- (f) use technology in legal research.
- (g) recognise problem-solving contexts involving the law relating to credit agreements.

# **Intended Specific Outcomes for Credit Agreements**

The Credit Agreements portion of the course is designed so that students successfully completing this portion of the course should be able to achieve the following outcomes. The student should be able to:

- (a) Understand and explain the essential features of a credit agreement.
- (b) Understand and explain what the consequences are of concluding a credit agreement.
- (c) Understand and explain some of the key practical consequences of dealing with a credit agreement.
- (d) Apply the knowledge acquired during the course to solve practical problems with regard to credit agreements.

#### TEACHING METHODS

The course will be presented by means of *viva voce* lectures. There is a short handout for the course, which the students receive, and which provides the basic structure of the lectured course. In lectures, the substantive law will be discussed, leading precedents from the case law will be analysed, and the views of leading academic commentators will be explained. Occasionally, students will be expected to explain case law or statutes and consider practical questions in class. Students are expected to assume responsibility for their learning by reading ahead before each lecture, and consolidating afterwards. Lectures are compulsory. The normal Faculty regulations concerning lecture attendance and DP certificates apply.

# **COURSE CONTENT**

- 1. Definitions of types of credit transaction
- 2. The credit contract
- 3. The issuing of credit, and reckless credit
- 4. Debt review procedures
- 5. Credit agreements and summary judgment proceedings

## RESOURCES

The core reading and study material for this course are the leading judgments and statutes on the aspects of the law relating to credit agreements. These cases may be found in the law reports, which may be accessed in the Law Library, both in paper and electronic form. For a full list of cases, see the course handout. The statutes are accessible either in printed or electronic form.

As far as textbooks are concerned, recommended texts are:

Otto The National Credit Act Explained (LexisNexis, 2006)

# STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Specific Outcomes (On completion of this course, the student should be able to:)	Assessment Criteria (What evidence must the student provide to show that they are competent? The student must be able to:)	Assessment Tasks (The evidence will be <i>gathered</i> in the following way. The student may be expected to:)
Understand and explain the key features of a credit agreement	<ul> <li>Define the various types of credit agreements.</li> <li>Describe and explain the requirements that have to be satisfied for these to exist.</li> </ul>	- Write short essays, supported by authority, explaining the requirements that have to be met for one of the elements to be satisfied Write case notes on the any leading precedents discussed and examined during the course.
Understand and explain what the consequences are of concluding a credit agreement.	<ul> <li>Discuss some of the important consequences of entering into a credit contract, and the legal problems that can be associated with these issues.</li> <li>Demonstrate an understanding of the court decisions that have authoritatively determined what the law is with regard to these legal consequences.</li> </ul>	- Write short essays, supported by authority, explaining one or another of the legal consequences of entering into a credit agreement Write case notes on the leading precedents discussed and examined during the course.
To understand and explain some of the key practical consequences of dealing with a credit agreement.	<ul> <li>Explain debt review procedures.</li> <li>Describe and explain how credit law impacts on summary judgment proceedings.</li> <li>Demonstrate an understanding of the court decisions that have authoritatively determined what the relevant legal principles are.</li> </ul>	- Write short essays, supported by authority, explaining the various legal duties imposed upon the parties to a credit agreement, and the remedies available where such duties are breached.
Apply the knowledge acquired during the course to solve practical problems with regard to credit agreements.	<ul> <li>Identify the relevant legal problem or issue.</li> <li>State the relevant law, and discuss the relevant legal precedents with regard to that issue.</li> <li>Apply the law to the facts in order to come to a reasoned conclusion about the problem, and the legal remedies that might flow from the finding.</li> </ul>	- Write judgments or opinions in which a practical problem is analysed and solved on the basis of the relevant law and precedents.

# **Assessment Strategy**

The final mark for the Credit Agreements module is comprised of the following components:

Examination: 15 marks out of a 70 mark examination.

Class work: no class mark (too late in the term)

These totals will be added to the results in the Agency and Insurance modules and converted into a percentage (see the comment on the examination below).

## Test

There will be no test for this aspect of the course, as it comes right at the end of the fourth term.

## Examination

One two-hour paper will be written in November. The examination will be out of 70 marks. The credit agreements component will be out of 15. The questions will require students both to be able to explain legal rules and principles in a theoretical sense as well as to apply their knowledge to solving practical problems in authentic contexts. The examination is compulsory. An external examiner assesses the quality of both the examination paper and the students' answers.

## **EVALUATION**

This course is evaluated as part of the global evaluation of LLB courses conducted at the end of each semester.