

**LANGUAGE OF CONTRACTS (Light):
A Short Course in Contract Law & Drafting for Non-Native English
Speakers**

Professor Marian Dent

CLASS SCHEDULE

April 25 Thursday – 10.45 – 14.00 (230B)

May 13 Monday – 14.45 – 18.00 (133 B)

May 17 Friday – 9.00-12.15 (133 B)

May 20 Monday – 14.45 – 18.00 (133 B)

This course overviews

- common law contract concepts,
- contract drafting, and
- contract terminology.

This course assumes no prior knowledge of contracts, and focuses on techniques that will help intermediate to advanced level speakers master the challenges of drafting an agreement in English. And it should help you draft better contracts in Russian too! The course will briefly review common-law contract law and the associated terms and concepts, but will concentrate more on the drafting.

Following the life cycle of contracts, the classes will cover:

- 1) Offer & Acceptance, Counter-Offer & Terminating an Offer,
- 2) Mirror Image Rule, Parts of a Contract, Drafting Rules
- 3) Indefiniteness & Ambiguity
- 4) Consideration
- 5) Warranties & Reps, Non-Performance Short of Breach
- 6) Illegality, Unconscionability, Promises & Conditions
- 7) Breach, Dispute Resolution
- 8) A Dispute Resolution Exercise.

The classes will be a combination of lectures and short drafting exercises, including some group exercises. Assignments will be given on a course learning management system (Moodle) run by Pericles Law Center, and turned in on that system.

Marian Dent is the Dean of Pericles Center for International Legal Education in Moscow, which runs an LLM program as well as legal skills programs for Russian practicing lawyers. Dean Dent teaches courses in legal writing, international business transactions, contract law and economic sanctions law. She obtained her Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkeley (Boalt Hall) in 1988. She worked for four years at the Washington, D.C. law firm in the fields of East-West and international trade, securities and general business law. Then, in 1992, she moved to Moscow to direct the Moscow office of the American Bar Association, where she was working in cooperation with the Administration of the Russian President and others to help reform the Soviet legal system into a system workable for a market economy. She has lived in Moscow ever since, and has been teaching and lecturing in law since 1995 at such institutions as Pericles, the Russian Law Academy of the Russian Ministry of Justice (where she coached the first ever Russian Jessup International Moot Court team), Moscow University Touro, the American Institute of Business & Economics, the University of San Diego Law School.