

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

**MMPA 516 SPECIAL TOPIC: EMERGING AREAS OF
CONSUMER LAW AND THE LAW OF ELECTRONIC
COMMERCE**

Trimester 3, 2014

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details	Office	Telephone
<i>Course Coordinator & Lecturer</i> Susan Corbett susan.corbett@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBA	RH 722	463 5480
<i>Lecturer</i> Yvonne van Roy yvonne.vanroy@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBA	RH 605	463 6762
<i>Course Administrator</i> Rebekah Sage rebekah.sage@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30 am-5.00 pm	RH 728	463 6921

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 17 November 2014 – Wednesday 18 February 2015

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 28 November 2014.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is 27 January 2015. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an 'Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late' including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Wednesdays: 12.40 - 3.30pm

Venue: GB LT 3 (Government Buildings Lecture Theatre 3), Pipitea Campus

Course Delivery

The course is delivered in one three-hour lecture each week. The course lecturers will assign readings and out-of-class work that is expected to be completed. A thorough understanding of all assigned material is essential. The lecture will involve a range of activities from group work to discussion and lectures. Course lecturers will post material on Blackboard. It is suggested that students regularly check Blackboard for updates, announcements and materials.

Expected Workload

As MMPA 516 is a 15-point paper, it is expected that students will work for 150 hours across the course. Lectures account for 36 hours of this time. Accordingly, students are expected to allocate approximately ten hours per week during the teaching weeks (outside of class) to lecture preparation, lecture review, readings, and assignments.

Prescription

Emerging areas of consumer law and the law of e-commerce will be analysed in the context of the New Zealand legal environment and in comparison with overseas developments in these areas.

Course Learning Objectives

This course provides an in-depth investigation of emerging areas of consumer and e-commerce laws. The overall objective of the course is to enable students to:

1. Identify and explain certain emerging areas of in consumer law and e-commerce law;
2. Analyse the underlying rationales and policies underlying these emerging areas;
3. Assess ongoing developments and changes relating to consumer laws ;
4. Critique developments in e-commerce law.
5. Analyse and resolve legal problems in the areas of consumer and e-commerce laws.

Course Content

The course focuses on recent developments in consumer law and e-commerce law. The overarching theme of the course is to analyse and critique the policies and rationales for these developments and to compare them with similar overseas developments. As well as building on existing knowledge of the legal system and business environment, new themes are introduced throughout the course.

The schedule of topics that will be covered are outlined on the last page of this course outline.

Readings

MMPA 516 2014 Course Materials Book

S Corbett and A Sims "*E-Commerce and the Law*" (2014) Thomson Reuters.

Assessment

There are three assessment items in this course:

Item	%	Duration	Date	Course Learning Objectives Assessed
Assignment	25%	1,500 words	7 January 2015 at 12.40 pm in GB LT3	(a), (b), (c), (e), (g)
Test 1	25%	90 minutes, open book	21 January 2015 at 1.45 pm in GB LT3	(a), (b), (c), (f)
Test 2	50%	120 minutes, open book	18 February 2015 at 12.45 pm in GB LT3	ALL

Penalties

Unjustifiable absences from tests will result in a mark of 'zero' for that test and may result in a student not meeting mandatory course requirements.

Students unable to take scheduled tests due to exceptional circumstances, must complete the 'Consideration of Exceptional Personal Circumstances for Tests Application Form' available on Blackboard. Submit this form to Rebekah Sage as early as possible, preferably before the test date.

Note: The submission of an application does not mean that the test requirement has been changed or waived. Penalties, as detailed above, will apply if it is not successful.

Exceptional Personal Circumstances include an impairment assessed by Disability Services, illness, bereavement, circumstances involving the health or wellbeing of a relative or close friend, compulsory attendance at court, national or international representative commitments, significant cultural commitments, or activities in which the student is representing the University.

*Note: Not being organised or failing to plan ahead are **not** exceptional circumstances.*

Mandatory Course Requirements

In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50 or better, students must:

- Complete all three pieces of assessment.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test, refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the course coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information concerning this course will be provided in lectures and posted on Blackboard: <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>. Urgent notices will be circulated by email.

Student feedback

Any feedback is considered and followed up on.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at
www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

Note to Students

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Lecturer
1	19 November	The Fair Trading Act 1986, Pt 1: Unfair Conduct	YvR
2	26 November	The Fair Trading Act 1986, Pt 1: Unfair Practices, Unsolicited Goods and Services, Unfair Contract Terms	YvR
3	3 December	The Fair Trading Act 1986, Pt 4A: Uninvited Direct Sales, Extended Warranties. Pt 5, Enforcement & Remedies Assignment Topic to be advised this week	YvR
4	10 December	Electronic contracts: Formation, terms and conditions, the Electronic Transactions Act 2002.	SC
5	17 December	Online security: crimes involving computers, digital evidence, protecting business information-encryption and electronic signatures.	SC
Mid-Trimester Break: Monday 22 December to Sunday 4 January			
6	7 January	Assignment to be handed in at 12.40 pm GB LT3 (preceding the lecture) Copyright and the e-business. The Copyright Act 1994, employees and independent contractors, protecting online information.	SC
7	14 January	Privacy: the Privacy Act 1993, international developments in privacy regulation. Spam and the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act 2007.	SC
8	21 January	12.40-1.30 pm: Revision session 1.45 -3.15 pm: 90 minute Test (Open Book): Covering material taught in Weeks 4, 5 and 6	SC
9	28 January	Domain names and trade marks: the interface, the differences, dispute resolution processes.	SC
10	4 February	The Consumer Guarantees Act 1993	YvR
11	11 February	Consumer credit – The Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003 (including amendments relating to responsible lending and the remedy for oppression)	YvR
12	18 February	120 minute Test (Open Book): Covering material taught in weeks 7, 9, 10 and 11	YvR

Staff: SC = Susan Corbett; YvR = Yvonne van Roy