

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

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

Trimester 1, 2015

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

<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 2nd March – Friday 5th June
Study Period: Monday 8th June – Thursday 11th June
Examination Period: Friday 12th June – Wednesday 1st July (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 13th March 2015.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 15th May. 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 or [online](#).

Class Times and Room Numbers

Mondays: 17.40 - 20.30

(**note** that due to clashes with Public Holidays the Monday 27th April lecture is moved to Friday 1 May in GB LT1; and the Monday 1st June Lecture is moved to Friday 5 June in GB LT1).

Venue: GB LT 1 (Government Buildings Lecture Theatre 1), 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 2015 Course Materials Book

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

Assessment

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

There are three assessment items in this course:

Item	%	Duration	Date	Course Learning Objectives Assessed
Assignment	25%	1,500 words	20 April 2015 at 17.40 in GB LT1	(a), (b), (c), (e), (g)
Test	25%	90 minutes, open book	4 May 2015 at 18.40 in GB LT1	(a), (b), (c), (f)
Examination	50%	120 minutes, open book	TBA	ALL

Penalties

Assignments

Assignments must be handed in on or before the due date and time. In fairness to other students, any assignment submitted after the deadline will not be marked.

An extension or waiver (with no penalty) will be considered on the grounds of exceptional personal circumstances. Students must complete the 'Assignment Extension/Waiver Application Form' available on Blackboard and submit the form (with the relevant supporting documentation) to the MPA Administrator, preferably before the assignment due date.

Note: The submission of an application does not mean that the extension has been approved. Penalties, as detailed above, will apply if the extension is not granted.

Tests

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 the MPA Administrator 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.*

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and submitted to Turnitin. A copy of submitted materials will be retained on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

Examinations

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period. The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the following period:

Friday 12th June – Wednesday 1st July (inclusive)

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 or examination, 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.

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	2 March	The Fair Trading Act 1986, Pt 1: Unfair Conduct	YvR
2	9 March	The Fair Trading Act 1986, Pt 1: Unfair Practices, Unsolicited Goods and Services, Unfair Contract Terms	YvR
3	16 March	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	23 March	Electronic contracts: Formation, terms and conditions, the Electronic Transactions Act 2002.	SC
5	30 March	Online security: crimes involving computers, digital evidence, protecting business information- encryption and electronic signatures.	SC
Mid-Trimester Break: Monday 6 April to Sunday 19 April			
6	20 April	Assignment to be handed in at 17.40 GB LT1 on 20 April (preceding the lecture) Copyright and the e-business. The Copyright Act 1994, employees and independent contractors, protecting online information.	SC
Monday 25 April ANZAC DAY			
7	Friday, 1 May	Privacy: the Privacy Act 1993, international developments in privacy regulation. Spam and the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act 2007.	SC
8	4 May	17.40-18.30 pm: Revision session 18.40-20.10: 90 minute Test (Open Book): Covering material taught in Weeks 4, 5 and 6	SC
9	11 May	Domain names and trade marks: the interface, the differences, dispute resolution processes.	SC
10	18 May	The Consumer Guarantees Act 1993	YvR
11	25 May	Consumer credit – The Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003 (including amendments relating to responsible lending and the remedy for oppression)	YvR
Monday 1 June QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY			
12	Friday 5 June	Consumer credit Revision	YvR

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