

School of Accounting of Commercial Law

COML 205 Consumer Law

Trimester 2, 2016

COURSE OUTLINE

Prescription

The law relating to consumers.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. explain the laws that businesses have to comply with in their interactions with consumers;
2. apply selected aspects of consumer law to fact situations;
3. critically evaluate the policy underlying consumer law;
4. compare selected aspects of New Zealand consumer law with overseas jurisdictions.

Course Content

An outline of the content covered by this course is on page 3.

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 11th July – Friday 14th October

Study Period: Monday 17th October – Thursday 20th October

Examination Period: Friday 21st October – Saturday 12th November (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 22nd July 2016.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 23rd September 2016. 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' form including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks or [online](#).

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator &

Lecturer:	Dr Jonathan Barrett jonathan.barrett@vuw.ac.nz Email for an appointment	RH 701	463 5724
Lecturer:	Dr Amanda Reilly amanda.reilly@vuw.ac.nz Email for an appointment	RH 723	463 6958

Administrator: Rachel Qi RH 708 463 7465
Email: rachel.qi@vuw.ac.nz
(Office hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am-5pm)
Office is closed: 10.30-10.45am and 3.30-3.45pm.)

Class Times and Room Numbers

Wednesdays & Fridays: 2.40 pm - 3.30 pm in Rutherford House RHLT2

Course Delivery

The course will be delivered by lectures and tutorials. Before lectures you should read any assigned material and, before each tutorial, you need to read and consider the tutorial questions before each tutorial. Some tutorials will be problem-solving. It is recommended that students attempt to answer such questions before the tutorial by identifying the key issues, analysing the applicable law and applying to the facts. Other tutorials may require reading of relevant pages of the textbook or additional material before the tutorial.

Tutorials

Tutorial sign up instructions for 'MyAllocator' can be found on Blackboard under 'Tutorials'.

Readings

Required:

Kate Tokeley (ed) *Consumer Law in New Zealand* (2nd ed, LexisNexis, Wellington, 2014).
COML 205 Blackboard will set out a list of any recommended and additional readings.

Mandatory Course Requirements

In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50 or better, students must complete both assignments, sit the exam and attend at least four out of the six tutorials.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Expected Workload

It is expected that students' workload in this course will be, on average, 15 hours a week – total 150 hours. Students' workload will be made up as follows: Lectures 24 hours, background reading lectures 42 hours, tutorial contact, prep and assignments 34 hours, review of material for test and examination 50 hours.

Lecture Schedule			
Week	Dates	Topic Areas	Tutorials
1	Tues 12 July Thur 14 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of NZ consumer law • Theories of consumer law 	No tutorial
2	Tues 19 July Thur 21 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theories of consumer law • International comparisons 	No tutorial
3	Tues 26 July Thur 28 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International comparisons • Defective goods and services 	Tutorial 1
4	Tues 2 Aug Thur 4 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defective goods and services • Defective goods and services 	Tutorial 2
5	Tues 9 Aug Thur 11 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defective goods and services • Lender responsibilities 	No tutorial
6	Tues 16 August Thur 18 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lender responsibilities • Lender responsibilities <p><i>Assignment One Due Friday 19 August at 2pm</i></p>	Tutorial 3
		MID-TRIMESTER BREAK 22 AUGUST – 4 SEPTEMBER	
7	Tues 6 Sept Thur 8 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer information • Consumer information 	No Tutorial
8	Tues 13 Sept Thur 15 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Information • Consumer Information 	Tutorial 4
9	Tues 20 Sept Thur 22 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfair contract terms • Unfair contract terms 	No Tutorial
10	Tues 27 Sept Thur 29 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Specific Regulation • Industry Specific Regulation <p><i>Assignment Two due Friday 30 September at 2pm</i></p>	Tutorial 5
11	Tues 4 Oct Thur 6 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Specific Regulation • Regulation of Specific Methods 	No Tutorial
12	Tues 11 Oct Thur 13 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to justice • Course review 	Tutorial 6

This is a general lecture outline only. Some topics may be addressed in a different week from that shown here.

Assessment

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

Assignment One (20%) **Due:** Friday 19 August 2pm (word limit 1000 words)

This assignment will be a discussion question which will require students to critically evaluate the policy underlying consumer law and to compare selected aspects of New Zealand consumer law with overseas jurisdictions (Learning Objectives, 3 and 4).

Assignment Two (20%) **Due:** Friday 30 September 2pm (word limit 1000 words).

This assignment will relate to course objective 4 and will require you to apply a selected aspect of consumer law to a fact situation

Exam (60%) (2 hours, open book) Date TBA

The Exam will consist of a mix of problem and essay type questions which will require students to demonstrate their mastery of Learning Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4.

Note: assignments are to be placed in boxes labelled COML 205 on first floor of Railway West Wing.

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 21st October – Saturday 12th November (inclusive)

Penalties

In fairness to other students, any assignment submitted after the deadline will be subject to a penalty of 5% of the total marks available for every day or part of a day (including Saturdays and Sundays) that the assignment is submitted late. For example, an assignment marked out of 100 due by 2pm on Monday 1 January but submitted at 1pm on Wednesday 3 January, would be marked out of 100 and then have 10 marks deducted from the marks awarded. No marks will be awarded to any assignment submitted after the assignment has been discussed in class or marked and returned to other students or after 10 days have elapsed, whichever occurs first.

Penalties will not apply if the Course Coordinator has agreed before the deadline that, due to circumstances beyond the student's control, the assignment may be submitted late.

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.

Materials and Equipment

Any additional reading will be available on Blackboard.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

In response to student feedback, we have changed the order of lectures. This will enable students to have a basic understanding of New Zealand consumer law before we engage with theory and international comparisons.

Class Representative

A class representative will be appointed after 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

Any additional reading will be available on Blackboard.

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.
