



LAW 450 Consumer Law
CRN 43933, 3 credit hours
Professor David E. Sorkin
Summer 2022

SYLLABUS

Course Description

This course examines concerns particular to consumer transactions in formation, substance, and remedies. Topics include advertising; consumer sales practices and contracts; consumer credit practices; fraud; warranties; and product standards and safety. Regulatory, statutory, and common-law obligations and remedies (both state and federal) will be addressed, with an emphasis on federal consumer protection statutes.

The only prerequisites are the required first-year courses.

Class Meeting Schedule

This is a fully asynchronous online course. Each module on Blackboard is to be completed by 11:59 pm on the last day (usually a Thursday or Sunday).

The midterm exam will be posted on Blackboard on July 4, 2022, and is due at 5:00 pm on July 7. The final examination will be posted on July 29 and is due at 5:00 pm on August 3.

Instructor

David E. Sorkin, Associate Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Academic Programs

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Telephone: (312) 987-2387

Office hours (via Zoom): Tues. 1:00–4:00 pm and by appointment (please make arrangements with me in advance if you wish to meet during office hours or at another time)

Textbook

Douglas J. Whaley & James P. Nehf, *Problems and Materials on Consumer Law* (9th ed., Aspen 2021) (ISBN 978-1-5438-2579-4 (paperback) or 978-1-5438-2580-0 (ebook), list price \$298) (required text)

Learning Outcomes

Students will gain an understanding of state and federal consumer protection concepts, statutes, and regulations. Students will recognize common problems involving consumer transactions; identify relevant statutes and regulations; and apply them to specific problems. Students will critically evaluate policy justifications for consumer law rules and predict likely effects of changes in the law. More generally, students will develop skills in locating, interpreting, and applying statutes and regulations.

Assessments

1. Class Participation

Students will be asked to submit responses to many of the problems and to participate actively in online discussions of the problems and other aspects of the assigned readings. The extent and quality of such participation will be evaluated by the instructor, and will account for 30% of the course grade.

2. Topical Reports

Each student will be assigned to submit two brief reports to supplement the assigned readings. The content and length of these reports will vary depending upon the topic. The report may take the form of a traditional written report, or a PowerPoint or similar presentation, or (with the instructor's advance approval) some other format.

You may choose to present an overview of the topic, or you may prefer to focus on a particular aspect of the topic that is of interest to you. In either case, the report should not be a mere summary of the assigned readings. If you find that there are significant state statutes or regulations that are not adequately covered in the assigned readings, you may address them in the report. You may also choose to report on recent legal developments related to your topic, such as new federal legislation, U.S. Supreme Court or other major court decisions, etc.

The reports will account for 20% of the course grade. The first report is due on July 3, and the second report is due on July 27.

3. Examinations

There will be an ungraded midterm examination and an anonymously graded final examination worth 50% of the course grade. Both will be open-book, take-home exams consisting of essay questions.

The midterm exam will be posted on Blackboard on July 4, 2022, and is due at 5:00 pm on July 7. It should take less than three hours to complete.

The final exam will be posted on Blackboard on July 29 and is due at 5:00 pm on August 3. It should take less than four hours to complete.

Attendance

Attendance will be determined for each module based upon whether you have posted in the discussion forum for that module or engaged in other academic activity (as provided in the Law School's Attendance Policies) during the dates assigned for that module. **The maximum number of absences is 3 out of 13 modules.**

Students must post to the Introductions discussion forum in Module 1 or participate in some other manner no later than Friday of the first week to avoid being dropped from the class.

Policies

The Law School's Common Syllabus Provisions, available at <https://go.uic.edu/lawcsp>, are incorporated by reference.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

1. June 13–16	Introduction and Fraud	pp. 1–59
2. June 17–19	Deceptive Practices	pp. 87–158
3. June 20–23	Product Quality	pp. 217–296
4. June 24–26	Payment and Consumers	pp. 297–394
5. June 27–30	Fair Credit Reporting Act	pp. 395–477
6. July 1–3	Equal Credit Opportunity Act	pp. 478–515
7. July 4–7	Midterm Examination	
8. July 8–10	Truth in Lending Disclosure	pp. 517–568
9. July 11–14	Truth in Lending Disclosure, continued	pp. 568–638
10. July 15–17	Truth in Lending Remedies	pp. 639–701
11. July 18–21	Mortgages; Leasing	pp. 703–770
12. July 22–24	Debt Collection	pp. 785–869
13. July 25–27	Cyberspace	pp. 871–943
July 29–Aug. 3	Final Examination	