

**Consumer Law**  
The John Marshall Law School  
Professor David E. Sorkin  
Summer 2008

**SYLLABUS**

**Overview**

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 course meets on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm from June 9 through July 23. The examination will be given on Monday, July 28.

The website for the course is located at [www.consumerlawclass.com](http://www.consumerlawclass.com).

**Instructor**

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Summer office hours: by appointment

**Textbooks**

- Douglas J. Whaley, *Problems and Materials on Consumer Law* (Aspen 4th ed. 2006) (ISBN-13: 978-0-7355-5809-0, list price \$109)
- John A. Spanogle et al., *Selected Consumer Statutes* (Thomson/West 2007 ed.) (ISBN-13: 978-0-314-18441-2, list price \$31)

## Course Requirements and Grading

### 1. Attendance and Class Participation

Regular attendance, preparation, and active participation are expected. Students who miss more than three class meetings will not be eligible to receive credit for the course. Class attendance and participation will account for 20% of the course grade.

### 2. Reports

Each student will be assigned to submit brief reports to supplement the assigned readings on one or more selected topics. The content and length of these reports will vary depending upon the topic. 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. You should check whether there are significant Illinois state statutes or regulations that are not adequately covered in the assigned readings, and if so, you should summarize 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 may be submitted via e-mail or in hard copy. A sample report will be posted on the course website. You should be prepared to discuss the contents of your report in class; a formal presentation to the class is not expected unless you are absent when the topic is covered in class.

Unless otherwise announced, the reports should be submitted on or before the date on which the topic is covered in class. Late reports will receive at most partial credit, and in no event will any reports be accepted after the last class meeting.

The reports will account for 20% of the course grade.

### 3. Examination

The final examination will account for the remaining 60% of the course grade. The examination will be closed-book; any necessary statutes or other information will be included in the examination booklet. The examination will likely consist of between five and ten essay questions; additional information about the examination will be provided in class. If you wish to request a make-up examination or have any other concerns that may affect the anonymity of your examination, please contact the Registrar rather than speaking with me directly.

## Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments

Additional required reading assignments may be announced in class. In addition to the pages listed below, you will also need to consult relevant statutes and regulations. Materials that are not in the casebook or statutory supplement will be posted at [www.consumerlawclass.com](http://www.consumerlawclass.com).

<b>Monday, June 9</b>	Fraud: Casebook pages 1-32 Deceptive Practices: Casebook pages 33-57
<b>Wednesday, June 11</b>	Deceptive Practices, continued: Casebook pages 57-103
<b>Monday, June 16</b>	Deceptive Practices, continued: Casebook pages 103-176
<b>Wednesday, June 18</b>	Product Quality: Casebook page 177-212
<b>Monday, June 23</b>	Federal Quality Control Statutes: Casebook pages 213-259 Promissory Notes and Credit Cards: Casebook pages 261-293
<b>Wednesday, June 25</b>	Billing Disputes and EFT: Casebook pages 293-334 Credit Reporting: Casebook pages 335-372
<b>Monday, June 30</b>	Equal Credit Opportunity: Casebook pages 372-406
<b>Wednesday, July 2</b>	Truth in Lending—Disclosure: Casebook pages 407-437 and supplemental materials posted on website
<b>Monday, July 7</b>	TIL—Disclosure, continued: Casebook pages 437-515
<b>Wednesday, July 9</b>	TIL—Remedies: Casebook pages 517-534, 548-583
<b>Monday, July 14</b>	Arbitration and Class Actions: Casebook pages 534-548 and supplemental materials posted on website
<b>Wednesday, July 16</b>	Consumer Leasing: Casebook pages 585-592 Retail Installment Sales and Loans: Casebook pages 593-604
<b>Monday, July 21</b>	Debt Collection: Casebook pages 605-661
<b>Wednesday, July 23</b>	Consumers in Cyberspace: Casebook pages 663-681 and supplemental materials posted on website
<b>Monday, July 28</b>	Examination