



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
Coordinator: assoc. prof. dr. Danguolė Bublienė Other(s): -	Private Law Department, Faculty of Law, Vilnius University Saulėtekio av. 9, Building 1, LT-10222, Vilnius, Room 311, tel. (85)2366170; e-mail: ptkatedra@tf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
Second	Optional

Mode of delivery	Course unit delivery period	Language (s) of instruction
Face-to-face	1 st semester (autumn)	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites:-	Co-requisites (if any):-

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	133	32	101

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
The course unit aims at providing students with profound knowledge in depth aspects of consumer protection at the international level and in the European Union: the history and legal background of consumer protection, consumer and consumer contract concept, institutional framework, the regulation of protection of consumer rights, enforcement of consumer protection (procedural peculiarities) as well as the application and interpretation of legal norms of consumer rights protection in practice. It aims to develop analytical and critical thinking, interpersonal and communication skills.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
- Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge of the consumer law: they will be able to distinguish between consumer relations and other contractual legal relations; they will be able to determine peculiarities of consumer protection and guarantees for consumers, as well as to identify the peculiarities of consumer protection at the international and European Union level	Lectures, seminars (oral presentations, group discussions, analysis of practical problematic situations, case study), individual work (selection and analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature)	Active participation in class activities (presentation, participation in discussion, analysis of practical situations), research project
- Students will be able to interpret legal norms regulating consumer relations, and to properly apply them as well as positions of case-law and doctrines in the process of solving complex problems	Lectures, seminars (oral presentations, group discussions, analysis of practical problematic situations, case study), individual work (selection and analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature)	Active participation in class activities (presentation, participation in discussion, analysis of practical situations), research project
- Students will be able to independently study and analyse scholarly and practical material as well as case-law and to systemise information	Seminars (oral presentations, group discussions, analysis of practical problematic situations, case study), individual work (selection and analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature)	Active participation in class activities (presentation, participation in discussion, analysis of practical situations), research project
- Students will be able to critically analyse practical situations, to properly classify legal issues relating to the consumer protection and will be able to participate in practical activities related to protection of consumer rights (inter alia, applying	Lectures, seminars (oral presentations, group discussions, analysis of practical problematic situations, case study), individual work (selection and analysis of	Active participation in class activities (presentation, participation in discussion, analysis of

methods of dispute resolution, providing legal advice and recommendations, representation of legal interest) in respect to ethical values, the principle of justice and moral sensibility	the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature)	practical situations), research project
- Students will be able to take critical (and self-critical) approach, orally or in written to provide their opinion in a coherent, argumentative and logic manner (inter alia, draft legal application acts) and to evaluate the current position assumed by others	Seminars (oral presentations, group discussions, analysis of practical problematic situations, case study), individual work (selection and analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature)	Active participation in class activities (presentation, participation in discussion, analysis of practical situations), research project
- Students will be able to independently identify and formulate a complex scientific issue based on development of international and European law theory and practice (inter alia, interaction with national law), define a research object, select appropriate research methods and apply them to lay out reasoned conclusions	Seminars (oral presentations, group discussions, analysis of practical problematic situations, case study), individual work (selection and analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature)	Active participation in class activities (presentation, participation in discussion, analysis of practical situations), research project
- Students will be able to enhance acquired knowledge and abilities independently, inter alia, to use legal information data bases and other sources, to select relevant theoretical and practical material, and to substantiate their own conclusions by the achievements of jurisprudence	Seminars (oral presentations, group discussions, analysis of practical problematic situations, case study), individual work (selection and analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature)	Active participation in class activities (presentation, participation in discussion, analysis of practical situations), research project

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Self-study work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Practical sessions	Laboratory activities	Internship/work placement	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
1. History of Consumer Protection Law. Concept of Consumer Protection Law. General aspects of the International Consumer Law: the role of United Nations (UN) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in the development of consumer protection at the international level. General Aspects of the European Union Consumer Law: legal framework; basic principles. Self-Regulation in Consumer Protection.	4		0,5				4,5	9	Study of literature and case-law, preparation of a presentation.
2. Institutional Framework of Consumer Protection: international level, European Union level; national level. The role of associations in consumer protection.	2		1				3	3	Study of literature and case-law, analysis of a practical situation, preparation of a presentation.
3. Concept of the Consumer. Concept of the Consumer Contract. The Images of the Consumer: Average Consumer; Confident Consumer; Vulnerable Consumer	2		1				3	12	Study of literature and case-law, analysis of a practical situation, preparation of a presentation.
4. Consumer Rights. Consumer Rights v. Constitutional Rights. Consumer Rights v. Human Rights.	2		0,5				2,5	6	Study of literature and case-law, analysis of a practical situation, preparation of a presentation.
5. Regulation and Supervision of	2		1				3	10	Study of literature and case-law,

Marketing: Unfair Commercial Practice									analysis of a practical situation, preparation of a presentation.
6. Consumer Contract Law: Control of Unfair Contract Terms.	2		1				3	10	Study of literature, case-law, analysis of a practical situation, preparation of a presentation.
7. Consumer Contract Law: Consumer Rights Directive; Consumer Guarantee Directive.	2		1				3	6	Study of literature and case-law, analysis of a practical situation, preparation of a presentation.
8. Non-Judicial Settlement of Consumer-Related Disputes: Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR); Online Dispute Resolution (ODR).	2		0,5				2,5	3	Study of literature and case-law, analysis of a practical situation, preparation of a presentation.
9. Protection of Collective Interests of Consumer.	2		0,5				2,5	3	Study of literature and case-law, analysis of a practical situation, preparation of a presentation.
10. Conflict and jurisdictional rules in consumer disputes	2		1				3	5	Study of literature and case-law, analysis of a practical situation, preparation of a presentation.
11. Individual research project			2				2	34	Preparation of the individual research project and it's presentation.
Total	22		10				32	101	

Assessment strategy	Weight, percentage	Assessment period	Assessment criteria
Active participation in class activities	20	During semester	Up to 2 points for correct, active and efficient analysis of practical situations (ability to critically assess the issues, to identify the most significant features related to the particular situation, capability to provide arguments in a clear, structured, logical manner, to base arguments on relevant legal provisions and case-law, to explain possibly different opinions of the academic debate, to provide their own insights and to base them on their own reasonable and convincing argumentation), presentation, answers to questions, participating in discussions, formulating problems and suggesting (searching for) solutions, offering thoughtful critical remarks, contributing to other participants' ideas, etc.
Individual research project	80	At the end of the course	Up to 8 points for an individual research project assigned for every student. The research area (the research topic) for an individual research project will be recommended by the lecturer or the students will be able to choose by themselves with advance consent of the lecturer. The assessment of an individual research project will be based on: - work content (comprehensive problem analysis, proper source application, critical analytical thinking, conclusion/recommendation formulation); - work structure and style (clear structural parts, scientific language style, exact wording, source references, proper and ethical citation use); - work presentation (concentrated work presentation, adhesive scientific language, the use of informative visual measures); - efficient and active participation in discussion, answering to questions, formulating problems and suggesting (searching for) solutions, offering thoughtful critical remarks, contributing to other participants' ideas, etc.)

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
HOWELLS, G.; WILHELMSSON, T.	1997	EC Consumer Law		Aldershot: Ashgate
BY DEVENNEY J., KENNY M. (eds.)	2012	European consumer protection : theory and practice		Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,
HODGES CH. J.S.,	2012	Consumer ADR in Europe		Oxford; Portland, Or.:

BENOHR I., CREUTZFELDT-BANDA N.				Hart Publishing
DJUROVIC M.	2016	European Law on Unfair Commercial Practices and Contract Law		Oxford; Portland, Or.: Hart Publishing
HOWELLS G., RAMSAY I., WILHELMSSON T. (eds.)	2018	Handbook of Research on International Consumer Law, Second edition		Elgar
HOWELLS, G.; TWIGG- FLESNER, CH.; WILHELMSSON, T.	2018	Rethinking EU Consumer Law		London and New york: Routledge
Optional reading				
HOWELLS, G.; SCHULZE, R. (eds.)	2009	Modernising and Harmonising Contract Law		Munchen: Sellier European Law Publishers
MICKLITZ, H.-W.; STUYCK, J.; TERRY, E. (eds.)	2010	Cases, Materials and Text on Consumer Law		Portland, Oregon: Hart Publishing
SCHULTE-NOLKE, H.; TWIGG-FLESNER, Ch.; EBERS, M. (eds.)	2008	EC Consumer Law Compendium: The Consumer Acquis and its Transposition in the Member State		Munchen: European Law Publishers
SCHULZE, R.; SCHULTE- NOLKE, H.; JONES, J.	2002	A Casebook on European Consumer Law		Oxford and Portland, Oregon: Hart Publishing
WEATHERILL, S.; BERNITZ, U. (eds.)	2007	EU Consumer Law and Policy		Portland, Oregon: Hart Publishing
LECZYKIEWICZ D.; WEATHERILL S. (eds.)	2018	The Images of the Consumer in EU Law		Oxford and Portland, Oregon: Hart Publishing