

**Consumer Law & Finance
Spring 2015 (2 Hours)
Professor Tracie R. Porter**

Professor's Contact Information:

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Phone: (714) 459-1153
Office: Room 302P

Classroom: As posted

Course Objectives:

This Survey Course will give you an overview of the common law, statutes and regulations that regulate how vendors conduct business with consumers. This course seeks: (1) to assess the effectiveness of the **current law** (common law and statutes) in protecting the interest of consumers; (2) to consider the **policy positions** underlying the law by looking at historical and constituent perspectives in order to identify if the law meets its intended goals, and, if not, how it can be changed to meet those identified goals; and (3) to give you some **practical tools** for dealing with a client with consumer law issues.

Required Text:

Spanogle, Rohner, Pridgen & Sovern, *Consumer Law: Cases and Materials* (Fourth Edition, Thomsen West 2013), or current edition.

Spanogle, Rohner, Pridgen & Sovern, *Selected Consumer Statutes* (Thomsen West 2013)
(or current editions)

Note: The reading assignments also include parts of federal and state statutes, which are also available through Westlaw or Lexis.

Supplemental Materials:

Supplemental materials and additional information related to the course will be posted on TWEN.

Guest Lecturers:

From time to time, speakers may participate in the class and share their experiences. Given the busy schedules of speakers, I will announce when a speaker will appear in class as soon as practical.

Grading Criterion:

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| Writing Assignments: | 20% of your grade |
| Presentations: | 70% of your grade |
| Class Participation: | 10% of your grade |

Final Exam:

NO Final Exam is scheduled for this course.

Class Participation and Assignments:

You are expected to be prepared for class and participate in the discussion and group exercises. Any additional instructions for the Group and/or Individual Presentations will be discussed prior to the designated day for such presentations. These presentations are based primarily on the information contained in the textbook but additional outside research may be necessary, particularly for the Policy Presentation. At my sole discretion, I may increase your grade due to exceptional participation and preparedness.

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken daily in class by circulating an attendance sheet for you to sign. It is critical that you ensure that you sign the attendance sheet every day you are present, but are not tardy. If you collect more than 2 absences, as indicated by the attendance sheets, you will receive a grade reduction for the final course in accordance with the rules of the Western State College of Law. You must NOT sign the attendance sheet for anyone else. You are responsible for keeping track of your own absences. In the rare instance that you have a question about your record, you may consult the Professor. Attendance records are based upon the signatures on the attendance sheets.

Preparedness:

You are expected to be prepared for each class, including, completing the required reading and designated problems from the textbook. Signing the attendance sheet certifies that you have read the assigned material thoroughly enough to discuss it in class or use the knowledge in a quiz or other written exercise. Preparation of a written brief for each of the assigned cases and written answers to the textbook problems will be considered prima facie evidence that you are prepared. If you are unprepared, place a signed and dated note on the lectern before class and do not record your attendance. Students found unprepared without giving notice will be given one absence.

Classroom Decorum:

Please be seated and ready to begin class at the designated time. Out of courtesy to your classmates, please keep distractions to a minimum; do not carry on social conversations with your neighbors while class is in session; turn off all pagers and cell phones; and void leaving the room and returning unless you have an unavoidable emergency (or have notified me in advance).

Class Recordings:

No videotaping or audiotaping of this class is allowed, except in extraordinary circumstances and ONLY with the express written permission of the Professor.

Classroom Decorum:

Please be seated and ready to begin class at the designated time. **Punctuality is expected so any student who arrives after class has begun will be on-call for the entire class for that day.** Out of courtesy to your classmates, please keep distractions to a minimum by not carrying on social conversations with your neighbors while class is in session, by turning off all cell phones and electronic devices other than your computer, and by avoiding leaving the room unless you have an unavoidable emergency or have notified me in advance.

Laptop Usage:

Laptops may be used in the classroom for note taking and class related internet access only. Any other usages must be expressly authorized by the Professor. Unauthorized use of the laptop will result in a loss of laptop privileges in the class for the remainder of the semester.