

Course Title	Special Contract Law Topics in the Digital Age				
Course Code	DLNLT506				
Course Type	Elective				
Level	Master (LL.M.)				
Year/Semester Studies	1 st /Spring				
Instructor Name	Dr Dimitrios Devetzis, Dr Ioannis Voudouris				
ECTS	10	Lectures / Weeks		Workshops / Weeks	
Course Objectives	<p>The course "Special Issues of Contract Law in the Digital Age" is part of the postgraduate program "Law and New Technologies" and aims to familiarize students with the recent developments of contract law, as they are shaped under the influence of technological changes and the digital transformation of the economy. Focusing on the EU and national legal framework, the course addresses the most important challenges arising from the use of new technologies in commercial and consumer transactions, with a focus on digital contracts, goods with digital assets, as well as digital content and services provided online.</p> <p>Particular importance is given to the analysis and interpretation of Directives 2019/770 (on digital services and digital content) and 2019/771 (on goods with digital elements), as well as to the study of distance contracts in accordance with Directive 2011/83/EU. Through a theoretical and practical approach, the course attempts to offer comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the complex issues that arise during the conclusion, execution and termination of digital contracts.</p>				
Learning Results	<p>Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand and analyze key concepts of contract law in the digital age, such as digital content, digital services, goods with digital assets, and distance contracts. 2. Critically apply the provisions of Directives 2019/770 and 2019/771, as well as interpret the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union on digital contract issues. 3. Identify and manage issues arising from the non-compliance of digital benefits and goods with digital assets, as well as guide the process to remedy the related problems. 4. Use the necessary legal tools to draft, negotiate and manage contracts relating to digital goods, services and content. 				

	<p>5. Assess the consequences of technological development on contract law, forming a comprehensive legal judgment on the contemporary reality of the digital market.</p>		
Prerequisites	N/A	Co-requirements	N/A
Content Lecture	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The new EU law on the sale and supply of digital goods and services</u></p> <p>Directive (EU) 2019/770 was adopted to regulate contractual rights and obligations in the supply of digital content and services uniformly across the EU. It is part of the Digital Single Market strategy, which aims to fill gaps in EU law on 'digital contracts'.</p> <p>Prior to the Directive, there were no specific rules at EU level for the provision of software, digital files, streaming, cloud services, etc., especially when they are provided "free of charge" in exchange for the user's personal data. 2019/770, together with the parallel Directive 2019/771 on the sale of goods, constitute the new legislative framework that adapts contract law to the digital age, ensuring a high level of consumer protection and legal certainty in the market.</p> <p>Directive (EU) 2019/771 is the successor to the old Directive 1999/44/EC on consumer sales and guarantees. It introduces updated rules on contracts for the sale of goods (goods) between a professional seller and a consumer, taking into account modern technological developments, such as goods with digital components (e.g. smart devices). 2019/771, together with 2019/770, aim to ensure a high level of consumer protection and a well-functioning single market. with full harmonisation of the rules in all Member States.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Online distance contracts</u></p> <p>Distance contracts via the internet are now the pre-eminent way of trading consumer goods and services. The EU has established a single framework for the protection of distance contracts through Directive 2011/83/EU (Consumer Rights Directive, CRD), as well as the Regulation on Electronic Commerce (Directive 2000/31/EC incorporated in the Member States – in Greece, e.g. Law 3471/2006). This section introduces the institutional framework governing the conclusion of contracts Online: from the stage of pre-contractual information that the merchant must provide, to the ordering and acceptance process through websites or applications. One of the most important rights of the consumer in electronic distance contracts, which is emphasized, is the right of withdrawal. Since the consumer does not have physical contact with the good before purchase, the legislation gives him 14 calendar days to change his mind, cancel the contract and return the product without justification, receiving a refund.</p> <p>In addition, issues related to online transactions are covered, such as payment security, the fight against fraud in online purchases, as well as dispute resolution. In addition, mechanisms to help the consumer after</p>		

	<p>purchase, e.g. online alternative dispute resolution (ODR platform) and how the consumer can assert his rights in practice, will be discussed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Online consumer protection</u></p> <p>In addition to contractual rights, the modern consumer faces new challenges in the online environment: algorithms that personalize prices, platforms that attract many sellers, reviews that are not always authentic, etc. The EU, through Directive 2019/2161 ("Omnibus"), has enhanced transparency and extended consumer law rules to areas such as online marketplaces. This section discusses rules related to: personalized prices, ranking search results, identifying whether the seller is an individual or a merchant, and genuine or false reviews and ratings.</p> <p>It also examines how to strengthen the enforcement of consumer protection rules in the online environment, as well as some modern developments. We will talk about the increased possibility of imposing fines (through the Omnibus Directive), the role of the Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation (CPC) in allowing cross-border actions by authorities, and the new possibility of representative actions (class actions to protect the collective interests of consumers). In addition, we will touch on issues such as consumer protection against data exploitation (coupled with GDPR) – e.g. when a practice can be both misleading and illegal on the basis of data protection.</p>
Methodology Teaching	Lectures – Self-Teaching Activities – Self-Assessment Exercises – Interactive Activities
Bibliography	<p>Devetzis Dimitrios, Personal data as contractual consideration - The regulation of Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2019/770 on the supply of digital services (https://paideia-news.com/panepistimio-philips/2020/10/28/ta-prosopika-dedomena-os-symbatiki-antiparoxi/)</p> <p>Marinou Michael-Theodorou, THE CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF DIGITAL CONTENT AND DIGITAL SERVICES</p> <p>Directive 2019/770 between consumer protection, personal data and intellectual property law, P.N. Sakkoulas, 2023</p> <p>Devetzis Dimitrios, Developments in EU Contract and Consumer Protection Law - Directives (EU) 2019/770 and 2019/771, https://paideia-news.com/panepistimio-philips/2020/06/10/ekselikseis-sto-enosiako-dikaio-ton-symbaseon-kai-tis-prostasias-toy-katanaloti/</p> <p>Tziva Efi, Competition Law (Unfair & Free) - Consumer Protection Law, 10th ed., Sakkoula Publications, 2024</p> <p>Devetzis Dimitrios, The Law of the Digital Market, Law Library, 2025</p> <p>Sauerland Mirja, The Harmonization of Collective Consumer Legal Protection in the EU - An Analysis Regarding the Competence of the</p>

	<p>European Union to Create Uniform Performance-Oriented Collective Redress Mechanisms, beck Verlag, 2017</p> <p>Gössl Susanne-Lilian, Party Dispositions and EU Consumer Contract Law, Beck Verlag 2022</p> <p>Reich Norbert, Individual and Collective Legal Protection in EU Consumer Law, Nomos Verlag, 2022.</p> <p>Alberto De Franceschi and others, Digital Contract Law The Impact of EU Directives 2019/770 and 2019/771 and the Regulation of Online Platforms 9 and 10 June 2022 University of Ferrara Department of Law, Aula (Schulzehttps://www.europeanlawinstitute.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/p_eli/SIGs/Digital_Law/ELI_Digital_Law_SIG_Conference_on_Harmonizing_Digital_Contract_Law_9_and_10_June_2022.pdf)</p> <p>Metzger Axel, Data as Counter-Performance: What Rights and Duties do Parties Have? JIPITEC 2017 (https://www.jipitec.eu/jipitec/article/view/187#:~:text=Article%203%20para.,supplier%3F%20The%20proposed%20Directive%20does)</p> <p>Hans-W. Micklitz (Anthology Editor), The Making of Consumer Law and Policy in Europe, Hart Publishing, 2023</p> <p>Jorge Morais Carvalho, Sale of Goods and Supply of Digital Content and Digital Services – Overview of Directives 2019/770 and 2019/771(https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3428550)</p>
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Educational Activities (10%) • Task 1 (15 %) • Task 2 (25 %) • Final examination (50%)
Language	Greek/English