



School of Accounting and Commercial Law

ACCY 316 ADVANCED TAXATION

Trimester Two 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Course Co-ordinator/Lecturer</i> | Andrew Smith Email: Office hours: | RH 620 463 6707 andrew.smith@vuw.ac.nz To be announced |
| <i>Lecturer</i> | David White Email: Office hours: | RH 703 463 5705 david.white@vuw.ac.nz Monday and Tuesday 4.30pm – 5.30pm |
| <i>Administrator</i> | Hayley Cross Email: | RH708 463 5383 hayley.cross@vuw.ac.nz |

Trimester Dates

The second trimester in 2008 runs from Monday 7 July to Saturday 8 November 2008.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lecture classes will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1.40 pm to 2.30pm in room RH LT 3.

In addition, there are 8 tutorials of 50 minutes each, commencing in the week beginning Monday 21 July. Further details about the tutorials appear later in this Course Outline.

Course Objectives

On successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Comprehend tax policies behind New Zealand's international tax regime.
2. Demonstrate an extensive knowledge at an advanced level of contemporary international tax issues.
3. Demonstrate an ability to analyse complex tax law.

4. Discuss, orally and in writing, alternative interpretations of the tax law on key international tax issues.
5. Observe general commercial events and identify relevant international tax ramifications.

While not directly taught in this course, you have the opportunity to improve your writing and oral expression skills, which are critical when dealing with matters of a legal nature such as taxation. To assist you in this respect, we advise you to purchase or refer to a copy of Fleet, W., Summers, J. and Smith, B., (2004) *Communication Skills Handbook for Accounting*, Wiley, Milton.

This course will be particularly useful to you if you are planning a career in international corporate or banking sectors, tax advisory, public policy or revenue administration.

Course Content

The course essentially comprises 2 broad components:

- (a) New Zealand's international tax policy, law and practice; *and*
- (b) Double tax agreements.

The first component is further broken down into two general categories:

- (i) The taxation of non residents entering into both active and passive economic activities in New Zealand; *and*
- (ii) The taxation of New Zealand residents entering into both active and passive economic activities overseas.

While the focus of component (a) above is on New Zealand, the topics are still relevant if you are an international student, or a New Zealand student who anticipates working overseas, because New Zealand's international tax regime has common elements with those of other countries.

The component on double tax agreements concentrates on applications in various countries of the OECD and United Nations model double tax treaties, including New Zealand.

A lecture outline, which lists the topics covered in the course, is set out on page 9. Some topics may be addressed in a different week from that shown in the outline. Further information will be provided by lecturers.

Readings

The following legislation and materials are required for this course:

1. *New Zealand Taxation 2008 Legislation Handbook*, Thomson Brookers, 2008 or *CCH Income Tax Legislation 2008 – Student edition*. This is the same legislation as that specified for ACCY 305 this year.
2. Alley et al, *New Zealand Taxation 2008: Principles, Cases and Questions*, 2008, Thomson Brookers, Wellington or CCH New Zealand, *New Zealand Master Tax Guide 2008*. Again the first text was specified for ACCY 305 this year.

3. Kevin Holmes, *International Tax Policy and Double Tax Treaties: An Introduction to Principles and Application*, IBFD Publications, Amsterdam, 2007. (This publication is new this year and will be available for purchase directly from the author at a reduced price.)
4. ACCY 316 Double Tax Agreements publication (which is issued to you free of charge during the course).
5. ACCY 316 Course Materials Book (this will also be issued to you free of charge during the course).

The following texts are recommended for this course:

1. Arnold, B.J. and M.J. McIntyre, *International Tax Primer*, 2002, Kluwer Law International, 2nd edition. This text is held on closed reserve in the Law Library and 3-day issue in the Commerce Library in RWW. (Call mark is K4562 A752 I61)

Additional reading material will be provided in lectures and on Blackboard.

You are allowed to take the tax legislation and double tax agreements publication into the Terms Test and Final Examination. We strongly recommended that you do so. If you want to take this tax legislation and double tax agreements publication into the Terms Test and Final Examination, you must not write in them other than to place underlining or emphasis marks or to highlight parts of the text.

With respect to using the legislation and double tax agreement publication in the Terms Test and Final Examination, you should note that:

1. they will be checked at the beginning of the Terms Test and Final Examination.
2. if they contain notes of any kind, you will **not** be allowed to use them. Remember that only emphasis marks by a highlighter pen or by underlining are permitted.
3. the use of tabs, whether “Postit” notes/stickers or any other kind of tab, is prohibited.
4. if you are unable to take the tax legislation and double tax agreements publication into the Terms Test or Final Examination because your copies do not meet the above conditions or you forgot to bring them to the test or exam, you **cannot** borrow replacement copies from the examiners or share copies with another student.

Please ensure that you take the legislation and double tax agreement publication to the relevant lectures.

Expected Workload

You should expect to spend on average 14 hours per week on the course (*excluding* time to study for the Terms Test and Final Examination). How this time is made up varies from week to week, but typically comprises:

- 3 hours in scheduled lectures;
- 3 hours preparing for, and participating in, tutorials;
- 4 hours preparing and writing assignments; *and*
- 4 hours reading for lectures, and revising lecture and tutorial notes.

Unless you keep up with the course work, you are likely to face considerable problems catching up later in order to be adequately prepared for the Terms Test and Final Examination.

Group Work

All of the assessment in this course is based on your own work. There is no group assessment of any kind and **no group work can be submitted for assessment**: see also under *Academic Integrity and Plagiarism* and *Notice of Turnitin Use* on pages 6 and 7.

Materials and Equipment

Most course materials can be downloaded from *Blackboard* or found in the Course Materials Book. Lecturers do not hold spare copies of any course materials. If you are having any trouble obtaining course materials, please contact the Course Administrator in RH 708, who is available Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.00pm.

Electronic calculators and non-electronic foreign language dictionaries may be used in the Terms Test and Final Examination. Calculators with alphanumeric keyboards and programming functions, or which store or display anything other than Arabic numbers, are **not** permitted. Calculators **must** be battery powered and silent in operation. Mobile phones are **not** permitted in the Terms Test or Final Examination. If you are in doubt, check with the Course Coordinator.

Assessment Requirements

There are 2 assessment points, which make up your final grade for this course, as follows:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Terms Test (75 minutes) | |
| Friday 5 September, 17.30 – 19.00 in RHLT2 | 30% |
| Final Exam (3 hours) | |
| During examination period October/November | 70% |

Students who enrol in courses with examinations should be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.
Examination dates for trimester two: Friday 17 October to Saturday 8 November 2008.

To pass this course you must obtain a weighted average mark of 50% or more over the Terms Test and Final Examination. In addition, you must meet the mandatory course requirements (see below). *If you obtain a weighted average mark of 50% or more but fail to meet the mandatory requirement, you will **FAIL** the course and be given a 'K' grade.*

If your performance is affected by sickness or other personal difficulties (e.g. bereavement of a close relative), you must contact the Course Coordinator as soon as possible. You must not delay this until the end of the course or when final results are published. In case of sickness, it is essential that you see a registered medical practitioner as soon as possible while you are sick and obtain a medical certificate that certifies that in the opinion of the doctor you are sick and the extent of disability suffered by you during the period of sickness. Medical certificates that simply state “student X visited me and told me he/she was sick last week”, or something to that effect, do not contain any professional assessment or opinion of the doctor and are of no value.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The lectures, tutorials and the four assignments in the course form an integral whole. The course assessment will be based on the premise that students have attended all classes and tutorials as well as having completed all four assignments. Students who do not attend all lectures and tutorials and fail to complete all assignments will be at a disadvantage.

Mandatory Course Requirements

In addition to the *Assessment Requirements* above, to pass the course you **must** hand in to a satisfactory level at least **3** of the **4** assignments on time.

Assignments

There are four assignments which are an integral part of the course. As mentioned above, the Terms Test and Final Examination will be set assuming that students have completed all assignments.

Assignments are due as follows:

Assignment No:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Due 3pm:

Wednesday, 6 August
Friday, 15 August
Wednesday, 17 September
Wednesday, 1 October

Assignment questions will be posted on *Blackboard* at least one week before the relevant assignment due date. Suggested solutions to the assignments will also be posted on *Blackboard* after the assignments have been graded.

Assignments are to be handed in by 3.00pm on the respective due dates. They should be placed in the ACCY 316 box on the Mezzanine floor of Rutherford House. Please ensure that all pages are stapled and that your name and tutorial number are clearly visible on the first page.

In the absence of genuine and credible reasons, late assignments will **not** be accepted. In no circumstances can assignments be accepted for grading after the suggested solutions have been posted on *Blackboard* or otherwise released. It is not possible for lecturers to set special assignment questions to accommodate you if you miss assignment deadlines. If you have concerns about a late assignment, you should contact the Course Coordinator.

Tutorials

The course contains 8 tutorials, all of which you are strongly advised to attend and actively participate. You need to fully prepare answers to the tutorial questions beforehand so that you can knowledgeably contribute to the tutorial discussions.

Tutorial questions are posted on *Blackboard* at least 1 week before the relevant tutorial. Written answers to tutorial questions are **not** posted on *Blackboard* or otherwise distributed. Tutorials take place in the following weeks:

| <i>Tutorial</i> | <i>Week beginning</i> |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Tutorial 1 (DW) | 21 July 2008 |
| Tutorial 2 (AS) | 28 July 2008 |
| Tutorial 3 (AS) | 4 August 2008 |
| Tutorial 4 (AS) | 11 August 2008 |

Mid-trimester break

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Tutorial 5 (AS) | 1 September 2008 |
| Tutorial 6 (DW) | 22 September 2008 |
| Tutorial 7 (DW) | 29 September 2008 |
| Tutorial 8 (DW) | 6 October 2008 |

Tutorial signup is online (<https://signups.vuw.ac.nz>) during the first week of the trimester. When the signup becomes available will be notified on Blackboard. Detailed instructions on how to signup are found at the end of this Course Outline. Places in tutorials are allocated on a “first come, first served” basis.

Although attendance at tutorials does not form part of the assessment requirements or mandatory course requirement, it is taken into consideration if you:

- (i) are on the pass/fail borderline for the course;
- (ii) are on a grade borderline;
- (iii) apply for an aegrotat pass.

Communication of Additional Information

This Course Outline is available, along with other information and materials relating to the course, on *Blackboard*. You are expected to have access to *Blackboard* to participate in this course. All announcements and notices are posted in the *Announcements* section of *Blackboard*. If you have problems accessing *Blackboard*, you should contact Student Computing Services or the Course Administrator. Where applicable, copies of slides presented in lectures will generally be made available on *Blackboard*. Additional information is also conveyed to you in the lectures.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student and Academic Services Office

The Faculty's Student and Academic Services Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz.

Student and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to

the statute on the VUW policy website at www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct. The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Policy which is published on the VUW website at www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means no cheating. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalised severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website at www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

Students with Impairments

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services

(DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, telephone (04) 463 6070, email disability@vuw.ac.nz. The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each Faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Student Services Group (email student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/.

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and Faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 04 463 6983 or 04 463 6984, email education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

Manaaki Pihipihinga - Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme (Faculty of Commerce and Administration)

This is a mentoring service for Maori and Pacific students studying at all levels. Weekly one hour sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade, and Room 210 and 211, Level 2, Railway West Wing. Sessions cover drafting and discussing assignments, essay writing, and any questions that may arise from tutorials and/or lectures. A computer suite networked to Cyber Commons is available for student use.

To register with Manaaki Pihipihinga, please contact one of the following:

Puawai Wereta
Room 210, Level 2
Railway West Wing
Tel. (04) 463 8997
Email: Puawai.Wereta@vuw.ac.nz

Fa'afoi Seiuli
Room 109 B
14 Kelburn Parade
Tel. (04) 463 5842
Email: Faafoi.Seiuli@vuw.ac.nz

ACCY 316 COURSE PROGRAMME

2008

| <i>Wk</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Lecturer</i> | <i>Lecture Topic</i> | <i>Assign- ment</i> | <i>Tutorial</i> |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | July 8 | DW | <u>Introduction</u> | | |
| | July 9 | DW | Tax Residency | | |
| | July 11 | DW | Source | | |
| 2 | July 15 | AS | Foreign Tax Credits | | |
| | July 16 | AS | Double Tax Agreements | | |
| | July 18 | AS | | | |
| 3 | July 22 | AS | | | No. 1 DW |
| | July 23 | AS | | | |
| | July 25 | AS | | | |
| 4 | July 29 | AS | | | No. 2 AS |
| | July 30 | AS | | | |
| | Aug 1 | AS | | | |
| 5 | Aug 5 | AS | <u>Taxation of Non-Residents</u> | | No. 3 AS |
| | Aug 6 | AS | NRWT –Interest/AIL | No. 1 (DW/AS) | |
| | Aug 8 | AS | FITC/NRWT Dividends | | |
| 6 | Aug 12 | AS | Other income derived by non-residents. | | No. 4 AS |
| | Aug 13 | AS | | No. 2 (AS) | |
| | Aug 15 | AS | | | |
| Mid Trimester Break | | | | | |
| 7 | Sept 2 | DW | Transfer Pricing | | No. 5 AS |
| | Sept 3 | DW | | | |
| | Sept 5 | DW/AS | Revision Class | | |
| | Sept 5 | | TERMS TEST 5.30pm | | |
| 8 | Sept 9 | DW | Thin Capitalisation | | |
| | Sept 10 | DW | | | |
| | Sept 12 | DW | <u>Taxation of Residents</u> | | |
| 9 | Sept 16 | DW | Controlled Foreign Companies (CFCs) | No. 3 (AS/DW) | |
| | Sept 17 | DW | Foreign Investment Funds (FIFs) | | |
| | Sept 19 | DW | | | |
| 10 | Sept 23 | DW | | | No. 6 DW |
| | Sept 24 | DW | | | |
| | Sept 26 | DW | | | |
| 11 | Sept 30 | DW | | | No. 7 DW |
| | Oct 1 | DW | | No. 4 (DW) | |
| | Oct 3 | DW | | | |
| 12 | Oct 7 | AS | Tax Recovery Agreements | | No. 8 DW |
| | Oct 8 | AS | Current Issues | | |
| | Oct 10 | AS | | | |

AS = Associate Professor Andrew Smith

DW = Associate Professor David White

Tutorial Signup Instructions

To sign up for your ACCY 316 tutorial you need to follow the instructions below. Read these instructions carefully and take your time to follow the procedure step by step.

1. Go to the signup web site at: <https://signups.vuw.ac.nz>
2. Enter your SCS username and password to login to the system.
3. The Signup Home page opens. It displays all courses you are enrolled for and that use the SCubed Tutorial & Workshop Signup system. Click on ACCY 316.
4. The ACCY 316 course page opens. It shows the course contact and brief details of the signup instructions. A KEY is provided at the bottom that explains all buttons and what they do.
5. The schedule of tutorials includes the day/time, location, maximum group size, and spaces left in the tutorials.
6. If there are spaces left in a particular tutorial, you will see the ENROL button next to it. Click this button to enrol yourself in that tutorial.
7. If there are no more spaces left in a particular tutorial, you will see the JOIN WAITLIST button, if a wait list is available. Click this button to join the waitlist for that tutorial. (Note that if you do this, you will be removed from any other waitlist that you may have joined earlier). If somebody withdraws from this tutorial, you will automatically be moved up the waitlist or, if you are already at the top of it, you will be enrolled in the tutorial. An email will be sent to you if you are enrolled in the tutorial from the waitlist.
8. Note that you can only join a waitlist if you have already enrolled in one of the other available tutorials. In other words, you must first enrol in one tutorial and then you can choose to join the waitlist for another preferred tutorial.
9. You can choose to WITHDRAW from a tutorial you have already enrolled in. You can also choose to CANCEL WAITLIST to remove yourself from a particular waitlist.
10. A FULL button indicates that all seats and the waitlist are full for that tutorial. You must choose another tutorial.
11. More details on the various buttons are available in the KEY section at the bottom of the signup page.
12. You should enrol in only ONE tutorial and may join the waitlist for only ONE other tutorial.
13. This online signup system is available around the clock over the internet. You can log in and sign up (or change your signup) anytime before the closing date of the tutorial signup. You will NOT be able to sign up or change your choice after the tutorial signups have closed. Any requests after this date are manually handled by the Course Administrator. You must submit a written application stating why you were not able to sign up on time using the online system, along with other relevant documentation, such as medical certificate, etc.
14. You can view/confirm details of the tutorials that you are enrolled in and waitlisted for, such as the day, time and location, by clicking on My Signups on the left hand menu.
15. Click on Support on the left hand menu if you are having problems.

Finally, you must always attend the tutorials that you have signed up for. If you attend a different tutorial, your attendance may not be recorded.