

School of Economics and Finance

MMAF 526 LAW & FINANCE

Trimester One 2009

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

The course coordinator is Dawn Lorimer. Room RH306. Preferred contact is by email.
Email address: dawn.lorimer@vuw.ac.nz

The course lecturers are :

Peter McKenzie	email address: pjmcken@xtra.co.nz
Lance Pratley:	email address: law@lplaw.co.nz
John Horner:	email address: johnhorner@quiggpartners.com

Block Release Times

9.00 am Thursday 23 April - 4.15 pm Saturday 25 April 2009

9.00 am Saturday 13 June - 12.15 pm Monday 15 June 2009

A detailed schedule of each block release course will be supplied closer to the April and June sessions.

Attendance for all sessions of both block courses is compulsory.

Withdrawal dates: Information available via

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawlsrefunds.aspx>

Course Content – the Big Picture

The legal system and the financial system are often in strife with one another. MMAF526 Law and Finance seeks to provide finance students with the legal awareness to help avoid such problems. Topics covered include an outline of the legal system and issues of banking and finance, financial instruments, insolvency, consumer protection, competition, corporate power and authority, use of corporate information, corporate liability, electronic commerce and transactions, securities market and industry regulation, takeovers regulation and other sensitive issues for financial organisations.

Course Learning Objectives

Through taking this course students should be able to:

- Identify the basic legal principles underlying financial transactions and financial instruments

- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the New Zealand legal system and an understanding of the basic principles of the law of contracts, torts, (obligations) and trusts as they apply to financial transactions, and an overview of competition law, securities regulation consumer law and special provisions relating to electronic transactions
- Employ these principles in financial problem solving and decision making.

The above learning objectives will be assessed via two tests, one at the end of each of the block courses, and two assignments.

Expected Workload

Total average workload of 200 hours. During the approximately 6 weeks of the term prior to each block release students will need to allow about 14 hours per week for study, research and preparation of assignments for this course. The two block course each involve approximately 20 hours of work.

Readings

There is no textbook for the course, but a number of readings are supplied as photocopied documents to augment the course notes. You will find several such readings included with the course notes in your folder. Many of these – particularly those in the beginning sections are in the nature of background material explaining concepts of law. A number of Court decisions (cases) are included in the material relating to the particular transactions discussed in the course. These cases provide illustrations of the way the Courts have dealt with particular types of transaction. The headnote at the start of each case provides a brief overview of the facts and decision. The cases may include discussion by the Court of some surrounding issues but students should focus on the leading principle/s of law dealt with in the case and how that principle has been applied by the Court to the facts of the case. If you have any questions about the material you should raise these with the course lecturers. (See contact details above).

Assessment Requirements

The following schedule of assessment applies:

Exams:	One test at each block release session based on the reading assigned for the period leading up to the block release and material presented at the block release (25% each). Please bring your calculator.	50%
Assignments:	Two major assignments that count together for 50%. The first assignment (25%) is due Wednesday 15 April 2009. The second assignment is due Thursday 28 May 2009	50%
Total assessment		100%

Penalties

Each of the assignments will be marked out of a maximum that diminishes by 5% for every day late, with a weekend counting as one day. The date of submission shall be taken as the date of delivery or the date of postmark, if by post. There will be a final cut-off date, one week after the due date for each assignment after which no assignment can be accepted. The assignments will each carry a specified word limit. If an assignment exceeds the word limit,

credit will be given only from the beginning of the assignment up to the word limit. No credit will be given for the portion of work extending beyond the word limit.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To pass the student must attend all sessions of both block releases.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information including assignment questions, details of the block course Schedule, feedback on course assessments, etc will be provided by email or by post. Students are responsible for ensuring that the VIAF Senior administrator, Anna Potts, has their up to date email and postal address.

If you have or become aware of any health condition that could prevent you from attending a VIAF compulsory block release, then you should notify the Programme Director immediately, preferably by email, dawn.lorimer@vuw.ac.nz .

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.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building on the ground floor (EA005). This counter is the first point of contact for:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting mis-referencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. *At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin.* You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

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 or go to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website www.victoria.ac.nz/fca under Important Information for Students:

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

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: including the work of others will not be considered plagiarism as long as the work 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:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the

services and support they need while studying at Victoria. Another feature of the programme is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.