

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

## **MMPA 503 BUSINESS LAW**

Trimester One 2010

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

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<b>Names and Contact Details</b>		<b>Office</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<i>Course Coordinator</i> Associate Professor	Yvonne van Roy <a href="mailto:Yvonne.vanRoy@vuw.ac.nz">Yvonne.vanRoy@vuw.ac.nz</a>	RH605	(04) 463 6762
<i>Programme Administrator</i>	Mr Christopher Cripps <a href="mailto:Christopher.Cripps@vuw.ac.nz">Christopher.Cripps@vuw.ac.nz</a>	RH705	(04) 463 5757
<i>Course Administrator</i>	Marina Dobrovolskaya <a href="mailto:Marina.Dobrovolskaya@vuw.ac.nz">Marina.Dobrovolskaya@vuw.ac.nz</a>	RH708	(04) 463 5775
<i>Teaching Staff</i> Associate Professor	Yvonne van Roy <a href="mailto:Yvonne.vanRoy@vuw.ac.nz">Yvonne.vanRoy@vuw.ac.nz</a>	RH605	(04) 463 6762
	Mr Leslie Brown <a href="mailto:Leslie.Brown@vuw.ac.nz">Leslie.Brown@vuw.ac.nz</a>	RH714	(04) 463 6787

#### **Trimester Dates**

**Teaching Period: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**Study Period: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**Examination Period: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 (inclusive)**

#### **Withdrawal from Courses:**

Information available via

**Withdrawal dates: Late withdrawals with Associate Dean (Students) permission**  
(See Section 8: Withdrawals - from the Personal Courses of Study Statute)

<http://policy.vuw.ac.nz/Amphora!~policy.vuw.ac.nz~POLICY~000000001743.pdf>

**Withdrawal dates: refunds:**

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

#### **Class Times and Room Numbers**

Wednesday 5.40pm – 8.30pm, Government Building GBLT3.

#### **Course Content**

The aim of this course is to provide an understanding of legal principles that impact on business, in particular an understanding of the legal system and of the law relating to civil obligations. The

course is divided into two main parts. The first part provides an introduction to law and an explanation of some key concepts, followed by an introduction to property law (including intellectual property law) and the law of torts (with respect to negligence). The second part deals with that part of the law of civil obligations which relates to the law of contracts.

### Course Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to understand the functions of the New Zealand legal system:

- (a) Have an understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi and legal issues arising from it;
- (b) Analyse contractual issues;
- (c) Have a general understanding of specific areas of commercial law;
- (d) Analyse legal issues and potential solutions to legal problems;
- (e) Analyse and understand legislation.

### Course Delivery

#### MMPA 503: Business Law (Wed 5.40pm-8.30pm, GBLT3)

Date	Lecturer	Content	To be Read in Preparation
<b>PART ONE: Introduction to the Legal System and to the Law of Civil Obligations</b>			
3/3	LB	1. Introduction to Law	Chapters 1&2&4 Longdin
10/3	LB	2. Judicial Method – problem solving and statutory interpretation	Chapters 6&10&35 Longdin
17/3	LB	3. Judicial Method – case law & precedent	Chapters 9&12 Longdin
24/3	LB	4. Introduction to Property Law & IP Law	Chapters 13&16 Longdin
31/3	LB	5. Introduction to Civil Legal Obligations <b>Assignment due</b>	Chapters 17&18 Longdin
<b>Mid Term Break: 5-18 April</b>			
21/4	LB	6. Torts: Negligence	Chapters 21&28(pp549-561) Longdin
<b>PART TWO: The Law of Contract</b>			
28/4	YvR	7. Contracts – The phenomenon of Agreement	Chapters 1-5 Burrows
5/5	YvR	8. Contents of Contracts	Chapters 6-9 Burrows
12/5	YvR	9. Unfair Contracts & Illegal Contracts	Chapters 12&13 Burrows
19/5	YvR	10. Mistake & Misrepresentation	Chapters 10&11 Burrows
26/5	YvR	11. Termination & Breach <b>Essay Due</b>	Chapters 18&19 Burrows
2/6	YvR	12. Remedies	Chapter 21 Burrows

## **Expected Workload**

Workload obligations for this course are 10 hours per week for the 12 teaching weeks and 30 hours during the mid-trimester break.

## **Individual Work**

Collaboration on individual assignments is not allowed beyond general discussion as to the nature of the assignment question. Please do not work together to produce any written work and do not loan out your completed assignments.

## **Readings**

The required books are:

- Louise Longdin et al, Law in Business and Government in New Zealand, Palatine Press, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2006 (for Part 1 topics)
- John Burrows et al, Law of Contract in New Zealand, LexisNexis NZ Ltd, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2007 (for Part 2 topics)

Other readings: Lecture summaries and other handouts will be given out, and made available on Blackboard.

Students are expected to read the readings set for each session in preparation for that session. That will normally be 1-3 chapters from the text (an average of 75 pages). They are also expected to prepare answers to the tutorial questions in order to participate fully in that part of the session.

## **Assessment Requirements**

### *Assignment*

(due Wed 31<sup>st</sup> March) 20%

### *Research Essay (2000 words max)*

(due Wed 26<sup>th</sup> May) 30%

### *Final Examination (Open Book)*

50%

*Note: Assignments and Essays are to be placed in boxes labelled "MMPA 503" on the Mezzanine floor of Rutherford House.*

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the period from

**Examination Period: Friday 11<sup>h</sup> June – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

*Note: Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.*

## **Penalties**

Do not grossly exceed the word limit for your Research Essay (10% tolerance is acceptable) – after this point the work will not be marked.

The due date for the Assignment and Research Essay will be strictly adhered to. However, if you consider you have a good reason for not meeting these deadlines, please see the course co-

ordinator as soon as you know you will have this problem. Otherwise, the penalty will be 5% per day (after the due date).

### **Mandatory Course Requirements**

To meet mandatory course requirements students are required to obtain at least 40% for the Assignment and Research Essay combined.

### **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

### **Communication of Additional Information**

Information of course-related matters will be announced in class and posted on the Blackboard website: <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz> or via My Victoria. It is important that you regularly check Blackboard for messages, announcements, and materials.

**For the following important information follow the links provided:**

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **General University Policies and Statutes**

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

**AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support**

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)

### **Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices**

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/>

### **Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme**

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/mentoring/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring/)