

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

MMPA 503 BUSINESS LAW

Trimester Three 2010

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

		Office	Telephone
<i>Course Coordinator</i>	Mr Leslie Brown Leslie.Brown@vuw.ac.nz	RH714	(04) 463 6787
<i>Lecturer</i>	Mr Palitha De Silva QSM Palitha.DeSilva@vuw.ac.nz	RH611	(04) 463 6960
<i>Administrator</i>	Ms Pinky Shah Pinky.Shah@vuw.ac.nz	RH 708	(04) 463 5775
	Office hours:	Monday-Friday 8.30am-5pm	
	Office is closed:	10.30-10.45am and 3.30-3.45pm	

Trimester Dates

Teaching weeks: Wednesday 17 November 2010 – Wednesday 16 February 2011

Mid-Trimester Study Break: Monday 20 December 2010 to Wednesday 5 January 2011

Study Period: Thursday 17 February – Tuesday 22 February 2011

Test date: Wednesday 23 February

Withdrawal from Course:

Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before: **21 November 2010.**

The last date for withdrawal from this course is the three-quarter point of the teaching period, i.e. **28 January 2011.**

After that date, students wishing to withdraw late must apply on an ‘*Application for Associate Dean’s Permission to Withdraw Late*’ including supporting documentation

The application form is available from either of our Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Wednesday 12.40pm – 4.30pm, Government Building GBLT4 (we will typically use the first 3 hours).

Lectures on 17 and 24 November are in 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

Please see page 5 for an overview of the course.

Expected Workload

Workload obligations for this course are 150 hours which will typically be spread over the teaching weeks, the mid-trimester break, the study period, and the exam period.

Group 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, 4th Edition, 2006 (for Part 1 topics)
- John Burrows et al, Law of Contract in New Zealand, LexisNexis NZ Ltd, 3rd 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 any tutorial or workshop type questions in order to participate fully in that part of the session.

Assessment Requirements

<i>Assignment (1500 words max)</i> (due Friday 17 December by 12 noon)	20%
<i>Research Essay (2000 words max)</i> (due Thursday 10 February by 12 noon)	30%
<i>Test (Open Book; 120 minutes)</i> (Wednesday 23 February at 1.40pm) (Venue to be confirmed)	50%

Assignments and Essays are to be placed in boxes labelled “MMPA 503” on the Mezzanine floor of Rutherford House.

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 coordinator 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.

Use of Turnitin (if applicable)

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 compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. 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.

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

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

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

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring/

MMPA 503: Business Law
(Wed 12.40pm-4.30pm, GBLT4)

Date	Lecturer	Content	Reading
PART ONE: Introduction to the Legal System and to the Law of Civil Obligations			
17/11	LB	1. Introduction to Law	Chapters 1&2&4 Longdin
24/11	LB	2. Judicial Method – problem solving and statutory interpretation	Chapters 6&10&35 Longdin
		3. Judicial Method – case law & precedent	Chapters 9&12 Longdin
1/12	LB	4. Introduction to Property Law & IP Law	Chapters 13&16 Longdin
8/12	LB	5. Introduction to Civil Legal Obligations	Chapters 17&18 Longdin
15/12	LB	6. Torts: Negligence	Chapters 21&28(pp549-561) Longdin
17/12	LB	Assignment due (12 noon) Mid Trimester Break: 20 December 2010 – 5 January 2011 (incl)	
PART TWO: The Law of Contract			
12/1	PdeS	7. Contracts – The phenomenon of Agreement	Chapters 1-5 Burrows
		8. Contents of Contracts	Chapters 6-9 Burrows
19/1	PdeS	9. Unfair Contracts & Illegal Contracts	Chapters 12&13 Burrows
26/1	PdeS	10. Mistake & Misrepresentation	Chapters 10&11 Burrows
2/2	PdeS	11. Termination & Breach	Chapters 18&19 Burrows
9/2	PdeS	12. Remedies	Chapter 21 Burrows
10/2	PdeS	Essay Due (12 noon)	
16/2	LB/PdeS	Revision Workshop	
23/2	LB/PdeS	Revision Workshop concluded Test (1.40pm start)	