

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

MMPA 503: BUSINESS LAW

Trimester One 2011

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator

Mr Palitha De Silva
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Office

RH611

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Lecturer

Associate Professor Yvonne VanRoy RH605
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Administrator

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(04) 463 7465

Office hours:

Monday-Friday 8.30am-5pm

Office is closed:

10.30-10.45am and 3.30-3.45pm

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 28 February – Friday 3rd June

Withdrawal from Course:

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before 11 March 2011.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is **14 May 2011**. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an 'Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late' including supporting documentation

The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Thursday 5.40pm – 8.30pm, RHLT3

Course Content

The aim of this course is to provide an understanding of the legal principles that impact on business, in particular an understanding of the legal system and of the law relating to civil obligations in business. The course is divided into two main parts. The first part provides an introduction to law, an explanation of some key concepts and the legal method. Within this part, the participants will also get an understanding of how civil legal obligations arise in business – under statute, rules of equity, torts and contracts. 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 weeks 1-5 topics)
- John Burrows et al, Law of Contract in New Zealand, LexisNexis NZ Ltd, 3rd Edition, 2007 (for weeks 6-12 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. 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

Assignment 1 (1500 words max) 25%
(due date will be notified later)

Assignment 2 (1500 words max) 25%
(due date will be notified later)

Test (Open Book; 120 minutes) 50%
(Thursday 2 June at 5.40pm)
(Venue to be confirmed)

Assignments 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

The due date for the Assignments 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 Assignments 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

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>

The University's statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx> (See Section C).

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx

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
(Thursday 17.40pm-20.30pm, RHLT 3)

Date	Lecturer	Content	Reading
PART ONE: Introduction to the Legal System and to the Law of Civil Obligations			
3/3	PDS	Introduction to Law: Function, Development & Classification; Framework of Government	Chapters 1-5 (inclusive) Longdin
10/3	PDS	Legislative Process; Treaty of Waitangi Judicial Method – Statutory Interpretation	Chapters 6, 7 & 10 Longdin
17/3	PDS	Judicial Method – Case Law & Precedent	Chapter 9 Longdin
24/3	PDS	Introduction to Civil Legal Obligations: Statute, Equity; Torts (Negligence)	Chapters 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25 & 28 (pp549-562) Longdin
31/3	PDS	Contracts: The Phenomenon of Agreement	Chapters 1-5 Burrows
7/4	YvR	Contents of Contracts	Chapters 6-9 Burrows
14/4	YvR	Unfair Contracts & Illegal Contracts	Chapters 12 & 13 Burrows
Mid Term Break: 16 April – 1 May			
5/5	YvR	Mistake & Misrepresentation	Chapters 10 & 11 Burrows
12/5	YvR	Termination & Breach	Chapters 18, 19 & 20 Burrows
19/5	YvR	Remedies	Chapter 21 Burrows
26/5	YvR	Law Relating to Property	Chapters 13 & 16 Longdin
2/6		Test (17.40pm start)	