
School of Accounting and Commercial Law

**MMPA 516 SPECIAL TOPIC:
INTERNATIONAL TAXATION**

Trimester 1 2011

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

<i>Course Coordinator & Lecturer:</i>	Assoc Prof Andrew Smith Andrew.Smith@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: TBA	RH620	463 6707
<i>Lecturer:</i>	Assoc Prof David White David.White@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: TBA	RH611	463 6960
<i>Course Administrator</i>	Ms Pinky Shah Pinky.Shah@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am-5pm Office is closed: 10.30-10.45am and 3.30-3.45pm	RH 708	463 5775

If you email either of the Course Lecturers or the Course Administrators please identify yourself as a MMPA 516 student to prevent confusion with other taxation courses being taught during the same trimester.

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 28 February – Friday 3rd June

Study Period: Monday 6 June – Thursday 9 June

Examination Period: Friday 10 June – Saturday 2 July (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Courses

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.

Lecture Times and Lecture Rooms

Mondays, 5.40pm to 8.30pm in RWW 129. The first lecture is on Monday, 28 February.

There are 12 classes of 3 hours scheduled for the course. It is essential that students attend all classes.

Course Content

This course is designed to provide an in-depth examination of key aspects of New Zealand's international tax regime comprising the policy, legal framework and practice.

Details of the lecture programme are provided in a table at the end of this Course Outline.

Course Learning Objectives

Students who are successful in the course will be able to:

- explain how New Zealand residents will be taxed in New Zealand on income earned outside New Zealand;
- explain how non-residents will be taxed in New Zealand on income derived from New Zealand sources;
- explain the policies behind New Zealand's international tax regime;
- identify international tax ramifications of general commercial events;
- analyse and compare alternative international tax models in force in other countries.

Course Delivery

Each 3 hour class will involve a mixture of lectures, class discussions and problem based assignments. A break will be scheduled approximately midway through each class.

From time to time lecturers may specify required reading prior to a lecture. It is essential that students do this preparatory reading as the lectures will be run at a level that assumes some prior knowledge.

Expected Workload

Students will be expected to spend 15 hours each week on this course including a three hour class each week.

Group Work

While some of the classes will involve group work, none of the assessed pieces of work in this course are based on group work. The assignment/project must be sole work of each student.

Required Textbooks and Course Materials

The following textbook and materials are required for this course:

1. Alley et. al., *New Zealand Taxation 2011: Principles, Cases and Questions*, Thomson Reuters, Wellington, 2011. (The 2010 edition of this text would suffice for this year's course.)
2. *New Zealand Taxation 2011 Legislation Handbook*, Thomson Reuters, Wellington, 2011. Alternatively you can use the *CCH New Zealand Income Tax Legislation 2011*. (The 2010 edition of this text would suffice for this year's course.)
3. Double Taxation Publication -to be issued in class.
4. Handouts distributed in lectures and/or posted on *Blackboard*.

The Thomson Reuters publications listed in (1) and (2) above may be purchased as a set at a discount.

Students are permitted to take the income tax legislation into the Mid-Course Test and Final Exam and are strongly recommended to do so. If you want to use your legislation in the Mid-Course Test and Final Exam, you **must not** write in it other than emphasis marks by underlining and/or highlighting parts of the text.

With respect to using this legislation in the Test and Final Exam, please note:

1. The tax legislation will be checked at the beginning of each test.
2. Legislation containing notes of any kind will **not** be allowed to be used. Only emphasis marks by a highlighter pen or by underlining are permitted.
3. The indexing of the legislation by tabs whether by use of "Post-it" notes or any other means is prohibited.
4. Any student who does not have tax legislation to use in the test(s) because his/her text did not meet the above conditions or the student forgot to bring their legislation will **not** be able to borrow a replacement copy from the examiners or to share a copy with another student.

Materials and Equipment

Apart from the course texts, other handouts will be provided in lecture classes. If you are missing any of these, please contact the Course Administrator Pinky Shah.

Electronic calculators and non-electronic foreign language dictionaries may be used in both tests. Calculators must be battery powered and silent in operation. Calculators with alphanumeric keyboards and programming functions will not be permitted. If you are in doubt, check with the Course Coordinator.

Assessment Requirements

Mid-Course Test (75 minutes)	20%	Thursday, 7 April at 5.30pm (to be confirmed)
Assignment/Project	15%	Due Monday, 23 May at 5.40pm
Final Examination (2 hours)	65%	To be advised by University Registry

The topics to be covered in the Mid-Course Test and Final Examination will be advised in class prior to each assessment.

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.

Examinations

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 Friday 10 June – Saturday 2 July 2011.

Penalties

A penalty will apply to Assignments submitted late without a special dispensation. The penalty will be 10% of the mark awarded for each day it is late. Any work submitted for grading which contains evidence of plagiarism will receive no credit and the student concerned may be subject to further disciplinary action by the University.

Mandatory Requirements

In order to pass this course, students must complete and submit for grading the course Assignment and sit *both* the Mid-Course Test and Final Examination.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made 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

Any additional information or information on changes will be advised to students through Blackboard and at lecture classes. Students should ensure that they regularly check their Blackboard account for any new announcements.

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 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.

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.

To find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, refer to the University's website: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

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 516 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week	Date	Staff	Topics
1	28 February	AS	Introduction Principles of Residency/Source
2	7 March	AS	Relief of Double Taxation
3	14 March	AS	Taxation of Non-Residents -Types of Taxpayer -Interest/Royalties -Dividends -Other Income
4	21 March	AS	Double Tax Agreements (DTAs)
5	28 March	AS	
6	4 April	AS	
Mid-Trimester Test Thursday 7 April at 5.00pm (75 minutes)			
7	11 April	DW	Anti-Avoidance Provisions for Non-Residents -Transfer Pricing Rules
Mid-Trimester Break (Easter Holiday and ANZAC Day)			
8	2 May	DW	-Thin Capitalisation Rules
9	9 May	DW	
10	16 May	DW	Taxation of Resident’s Offshore Investments -Controlled Foreign Company (CFC) Rules -Foreign Investment Fund (FIF) Rules
11	23 May (Assignment Due)	DW	
12	30 May	DW	Conclusion and Summary

Staff: AS = Associate Professor Andrew Smith; DW = Associate Professor David White