

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

**MMPA 503 BUSINESS LAW**

Trimester 3, 2012

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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<b>Names and Contact Details</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<i>Course Coordinator &amp; Lecturer</i> Yvonne van Roy <a href="mailto:Yvonne.vanRoy@vuw.ac.nz">Yvonne.vanRoy@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office Hours: TBA	RH 605	463 6762
<i>Lecturer</i> Palitha De Silva <a href="mailto:Palitha.DeSilva@vuw.ac.nz">Palitha.DeSilva@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office Hours: TBA	RH 611	463 6960
<i>Course Administrator</i> Pinky Shah <a href="mailto:Pinky.Shah@vuw.ac.nz">Pinky.Shah@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30am-5pm	RH 728	463 6921

**Trimester Dates**

Monday 19 November 2012 – Thursday 28 February 2013.

**Withdrawal from Course**

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before 30 November.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is 25 January.

After the last date stated in #2, 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**

**Thursdays:** 12.40-3.30pm

**Venue:** GBLT4 (Government Buildings Lecture Theatre 4), Pipitea Campus

## **Course Delivery**

Please see page 4 for an overview of the course.

## **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.

## **Expected Workload**

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

## **Course Learning Objectives**

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

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

## **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.

## **Readings**

The required book is:

- John Burrows et al, Law of Contract in New Zealand, LexisNexis NZ Ltd, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2012 (for weeks 4-9 topics).

The recommended book is:

- Louise Longdin et al, Law in Business and Government in New Zealand, Palatine Press, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2006 (for weeks 1-3 and 10-12 topics).  
Multiple copies of this book are available in the Commerce Library (Railway Building).

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 questions in order to participate fully in that part of the session.

## Assessment

Assessment Item	Weighting	Date
Assignment 1 (2000 words max)	25%	due in class on Thursday 20 December 2012
Assignment 2 (1500 words max)	25%	due in class on Thursday 7 February 2013
Final Test (Open Book; 120 minutes)	50%	Monday 25 February at 11.30am in GBLT2

## 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).

## 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 submitted to Turnitin. A copy of submitted materials will be retained 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.

## Mandatory Course Requirements

In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50 or better, students must 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 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

Additional information concerning this course will be provided in lectures and posted on Blackboard: <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>. Urgent notices will be circulated by email.

## Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

## Note to Students

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 academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

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**MMPA 503: Business Law**  
**(Thursday 1.40pm-4.30pm, GBLT4)**

<b>Wk</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Reading</b>
1	22/11	PDS	Introduction to Law: Function, Development & Classification; Framework of Government	Chapters 1-5 (inclusive) Longdin
2	29/11	PDS	Legislative Process; Treaty of Waitangi Judicial Method – Statutory Interpretation	Chapters 6, 7 & 10 Longdin
3	6/12	PDS	Judicial Method – Case Law & Precedent	Chapter 9 Longdin
4	13/12	YvR	Contract Law: The Phenomenon of Agreement	Chapters 1-5 Burrows
5	20/12	YvR	Contents of the Contract	Chapters 6-9 Burrows
<b>Mid-Trimester Break (Saturday 22 December 2012 – Sunday 6 January 2013)</b>				
6	10/1	YvR	Unfair Contracts & Illegal Contracts	Chapters 12 & 13 Burrows
7	17/1	YvR	Mistake & Misrepresentation	Chapters 10 & 11 Burrows
8	24/1	YvR	Termination, Breach and Remedies	Chapters 18-21 Burrows
9	31/1	YvR	Consumer Law: The Fair Trading Act 1986 and The Consumer Guarantees Act 1993	Chapter 11 Burrows (and handouts)
10	7/2	PDS	Civil Legal Obligations: Statute, Equity	Chapters 17, 18, 20, 22 Longdin
11	14/2	PDS	Civil Legal Obligations: Negligence	Chapter 21 Longdin
12	21/2	PDS	Civil Legal Obligations: Professional Negligence	Chapter 28 Longdin (pp. 549-561)
	25/2		<b>Final Test – 11.30am in GBLT2</b>	