

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

**MMPA 517 SPECIAL TOPIC: CURRENT ISSUES IN
ACCOUNTING, COMMERCIAL LAW AND TAXATION**

Trimester 1, 2014

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details	Office	Telephone
<i>Course Coordinator & Lecturer</i> Lisa Marriott lisa.marriott@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBA	RH 603	463 5938
<i>Lecturer</i> Philip Colquhoun philip.colquhoun@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBA	RH 715	463 5776
<i>Lecturer</i> Trish Keeper trish.keeper@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBA	RH 617	463 5203
<i>Course Administrator</i> Pinky Shah pinky.shah@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9.00am-5.30pm	RH 728	463 6921

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 3 March – Friday 6 June

Study Period: Monday 9 June – Thursday 12 June

Examination Period: Friday 13 June – Wednesday 2 July (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 14 March 2014.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 16 May 2014. 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

Fridays: 12.40-3.30pm

Venue: GB LT 4 (Government Buildings Lecture Theatre 4), Pipitea Campus

NOTE: The lecture in week 7 will take place on **Monday 7 April, 12.40-3.30pm in RWW 501.**

Course Delivery

The course is delivered in one three-hour lecture a week. The course lecturers will assign readings and out-of-class work that is expected to be completed. A thorough understanding of all assigned material is essential. The lecture will involve a range of activities from group work to discussion and lectures. Course lecturers will post material on Blackboard. It is suggested that students regularly check Blackboard for updates, announcements and materials.

Expected Workload

As MMPA 517 is a 15-point paper, it is expected that students will work for 150 hours across the course. Lectures account for 36 hours of this time. Accordingly, students are expected to allocate approximately ten hours per week during the teaching weeks (outside of class) to lecture preparation, lecture review, readings, and assignments.

Prescription

Current issues in accounting, taxation and corporate law. Emphasis will be placed on understanding drivers of change of the accounting profession and analysing recent and ongoing developments in each of the three disciplines (accounting, commercial law and taxation).

Course Learning Objectives

This course provides an in-depth investigation of current issues relating to accounting, commercial law and taxation. The overall objective of the course is to enable students to:

- (a) Identify and explain the context of a range of current issues in accounting, commercial law and taxation;
- (b) Explain the antecedents and drivers of these current issues;
- (c) Explain the impact of identified current issues on the accounting profession;
- (d) Analyse current issues relating to the regulation of accounting, including structural changes in the accounting standard setting process;
- (e) Evaluate the impact of current issues within commercial law in managerial decision-making within the context of accounting disclosures for financial markets;
- (f) Assess ongoing developments relating to tax policy;
- (g) Explain current changes to the regulation and enforcement of securities market law.

Course Content

This inter-disciplinary course draws together, and further develops, a range of topics covered in prior courses including financial accounting, taxation, corporate law and financial management. In order to effectively build on knowledge gained in these previous courses, this course includes specific regulatory topics from three disciplines: accounting, taxation and corporate law.

The course focuses on topical issues facing the accounting, commercial law and taxation disciplines. The overarching theme of the course is to analyse a range of current issues facing the three disciplines, building on knowledge gained in previous courses. As well as building on existing knowledge, new themes are introduced throughout the course.

The schedule of topics that will be covered are outlined on page 5 of this course outline.

Readings

There is no required text for this course. Readings will be provided by each lecturer at the commencement of each topic. Readings will include academic journal articles and government discussion documents.

Assessment

From Trimester 1, 2014, a revised Assessment Handbook will apply to all Victoria courses: see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

In particular, there will be a new grade scheme, in which the A+ range will be 90-100% and 50-54% will be a C-.

There are three assessment items in this course:

Item	%	Duration	Date	Course Learning Objectives Assessed
Test 1	25%	60 minutes, closed book	28 March 2014 at 12.40pm in GBLT4	(a), (b), (c), (e), (g)
Test 2	25%	60 minutes, closed book	9 May 2014 at 12.40pm in GBLT4	(a), (b), (c), (f)
Exam	50%	120 minutes, closed book	TBA (see 'Examinations' below)	ALL

Penalties

Unjustifiable absences from tests will result in a mark of 'zero' for that test and may result in a student not meeting mandatory course requirements.

Students unable to take scheduled tests due to exceptional circumstances, must complete the 'Consideration of Exceptional Personal Circumstances for Tests Application Form' available on Blackboard. Submit this form to Pinky Shah as early as possible, preferably before the test date.

Note: The submission of an application does not mean that the test requirement has been changed or waived. Penalties, as detailed above, will apply if it is not successful.

Exceptional Personal Circumstances include an impairment assessed by Disability Services, illness, bereavement, circumstances involving the health or wellbeing of a relative or close friend, compulsory attendance at court, national or international representative commitments, significant cultural commitments, or activities in which the student is representing the University.

*Note: Not being organised or failing to plan ahead are **not** exceptional circumstances.*

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 following period:

Friday 13 June – Wednesday 2 July (inclusive)

Mandatory Course Requirements

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

- Sit all three tests.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

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.

Student feedback

Any feedback is considered and followed up on.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

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.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Lecturer
1	7 Mar	Financial Market Regulation: Disclosure and PDS	TK
2	14 Mar	Financial Market Regulation: Policy changes and the move to civil penalties	TK
3	21 Mar	Financial Reporting Regulation	TK
4	28 Mar	Test One: Covering lectures 1 , 2 and 3 Specific issues in the regulation of advisers and professionals: including financial advisers and insolvency practitioners	TK
5	4 Apr	Current issues in taxation: Retirement savings and taxation	LM
6	11 Apr	Current issues in taxation: Interaction between the tax system and the welfare system	LM
7	7 Apr*	Current issues in taxation: The politics of taxation	LM
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK (Friday 18 April – Sunday 4 May)			
8	9 May	Test Two: Covering lectures 5, 6 & 7 Current issues in taxation: Using the tax system to influence behaviour	LM
9	16 May	Changing Nature of Professional Regulation	PC
10	23 May	Integrative Reporting	PC
11	30 May	Developments in Public Sector Financial Reporting	PC
12	6 Jun	International Accounting	PC

Staff: PC = Philip Colquhoun; TK = Trish Keeper; LM = Lisa Marriott

* This lecture will take place on Monday 7 April, 12.40-3.30pm in RWW 501.