

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

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

Trimester 3, 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> Trish Keeper trish.keeper@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBA	RH 617	463 5203
<i>Course Administrator</i> Rebekah Sage rebekah.sage@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30 am – 5.00 pm	RH 728	463 6921

Trimester Dates

Monday 17 November 2014 – Wednesday 18 February 2015

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 28 November 2014.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is 27 January 2015. 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

Wednesdays: 5.40-8.30pm

Venue: GB LT 3 (Government Buildings Lecture Theatre 3), Pipitea Campus

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 and assessments 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. This includes 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 at the end 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

There are three assessment items in this course:

Item	%	Duration	Date	Course Learning Objectives Assessed
Test	35%	60 minutes, closed book	Wednesday 17 December, 5.40pm GB LT 3	(a), (b), (c), (f)
Group Presentations	15%		4 February and 11 February, 5.40pm GB LT 3	(a), (b), (c), (e), (g)
Final Test	50%	120 minutes, closed book	Wednesday 18 February, 5.40pm GB LT 3	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 Rebekah Sage 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.*

Mandatory Course Requirements

In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50 or better, students must participate in a group presentation.

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	19 Nov	Current issues in taxation: Retirement savings and taxation	LM
2	26 Nov	Current issues in taxation: Interaction between the tax system and the welfare system	LM
3	3 Dec	Current issues in taxation: The politics of taxation	LM
4	10 Dec	Current issues in taxation: Using the tax system to influence behaviour	LM
5	17 Dec	Wednesday 17 December: Mid-trimester test, 60 minutes Current issues in accounting: Ethics and accounting	LM
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK (Friday 19 December – Sunday 4 January)			
6	7 Jan	Financial markets regulation: changing gate keepers	TK
7	14 Jan	Financial markets regulation: policy changes and the move to civil penalties	TK
8	21 Jan	Financial markets regulation: secondary market rules	TK
9	28 Jan	Specific issues in the regulation of advisers and professionals: Auditors and insolvency practitioners	TK
10	4 Feb	Assessed Presentations Current issues in corporate insolvency law	TK
11	11 Feb	Assessed Presentations Current issues in corporate insolvency law	TK
12	18 Feb	Wednesday 18 February: Final Test, 120 minutes	

Staff: LM = Lisa Marriott; TK = Trish Keeper