

SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

FCOM 111 Government, Law and Business

Trimester 1, 2015

COURSE OUTLINE

Contents

Names and Contact Details	2
Trimester Dates.....	2
Withdrawal from Course	2
Course Delivery	2
Class Times and Room Numbers.....	2
Expected Workload.....	3
Prescription.....	3
Learning Objectives	3
Course Content	5
Readings	8
Assessment	9
Examinations	11
Mandatory Course Requirements	11
Class Representative	12
Communication of Additional Information.....	12
Early Alerts (Course Signals)	12
Student feedback.....	12
Link to general information.....	13
Note to Students.....	13

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator

Dr Russell Harding

Room: EA 109, Easterfield Building
Faculty of Commerce Kelburn Campus Office
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Email: russell.harding@vuw.ac.nz

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 2 March – Friday 5 June

Study Period: Monday 8 June – Thursday 11 June

Examination Period: Friday 12 June – Wednesday 1 July (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before **Friday 13 March 2015**.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is **Friday 15 May 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.

Course Delivery

The course consists of two lectures and one tutorial per week.

Lectures

The course has a full enrolment split into two streams. The number of students in each stream matches exactly the capacity of the lecture theatre. **It is essential, therefore, that you attend the lecture stream for which you are enrolled** unless permitted to change into another stream by the Course Coordinator, who will sign a Change of Course form. Personal convenience is not an acceptable basis for switching streams.

Class Times and Room Numbers

	WHEN	WHERE
CRN 17242	Tuesday 2:10 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	KKLT303
	Thursday: 2:10 p.m. –3.00 p.m.	KKLT303

CRN 17243	Tuesday	4:10 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	KKLT303
	Thursday:	4:10 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	KKLT303

Students are expected to be in the lecture theatre promptly for lectures. Because of the size of this class it is important that students be seated before class starts. **Please note that the Occupational Health and Safety Act prohibits people sitting in aisles.**

Expected Workload

FCOM 111 is a first year, introductory course worth 15 points towards your final degree. A total of 150 hours should be devoted to your course of study over the entire trimester. This gives an average of 12.5 hours per week and includes:

- Lecture attendance;
- Tutorial attendance and preparation of tutorial worksheets;
- Assignment research and writing;
- Study for the legal test and final course examination.

Prescription

This course sets the context for the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) degree acquainting students with the legal and governmental environment within which New Zealand firms operate.

Learning Objectives

Victoria University of Wellington prepares its graduates to be scholars who:

- have a specialised understanding of their chosen field(s) of study;
- exhibit well-developed skills in critical and creative thinking;
- communicate complex ideas effectively and accurately in a range of contexts;
- demonstrate intellectual autonomy through independence of thought, openness to ideas and information and a capacity to manage their own learning;
- demonstrate intellectual integrity and understand the ethics of scholarship.

To complement these graduate attributes, Learning Goals have also been developed for the BCom degree. FCOM 111 is one of the core courses for the BCom degree.

BCom Learning Goals

The Learning Goals for the BCom are

Learning Goal 1	Critical and creative thinking
Learning Goal 2	Communication
Learning Goal 3	Global and multicultural perspectives
Learning Goal 4	Intellectual integrity
Learning Goal 5	Specific knowledge and skills in at least one business, economics or public policy discipline area

Taken together the intention is to ensure that the core of the BCom degree will enable you to meet these learning goals.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the key elements of New Zealand’s constitutional and political arrangements and articulate their impact on the New Zealand commercial environment;
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the nature of the law and the law-making process, and the general operation of the legal system to meet the changing needs of government, business and society;
3. Demonstrate competence to apply legal problem-solving skills in selected case situations;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the public policy process and explain how civil society actors and business engages with the policy process to exercise influence;
5. Analyse New Zealand's links with the rest of the world in terms of trade, sustainability, financial institutions and governance.

BCom Learning Goals and Course Learning Objectives and Assessment Mix

The teaching and learning objectives will be assessed using the following instruments:

Teaching and learning objective	Assessment instrument
CLO 1 LG 1, 2, 4,5	1500 word essay due by 1pm Wednesday 1 April 2015 (Government Essay)
CLO 2, 3 LG 1, 2, 5	Legal Test: Thursday 7 May 2015 at 6:15 p.m.
CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 LG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Weekly tutorial worksheets – due weekly. Final Course Examination – Date TBA Examination period – Friday 12 June – Wednesday 1 July (inclusive)

Course Content

Lecture Outline and Schedule

Week/Date	Lecture	Lecturer
Week One 3/3/2015	Introduction State and Market	Russell Harding
5/3/2015	Library Presentation Democracy/Referenda	Thomas Martin Russell Harding
Week Two 10/3/2015	Constitution	Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer
12/3/2015	Electoral Systems	Chris Eichbaum
Week Three 17/3/2015	Political Parties and Ideology	Chris Eichbaum
19/3/2015	State Sector and Judiciary	Russell Harding
Week Four 24/3/2015	Functions of Law Law and Society	Susan Corbett
26/3/2015	Civil law and criminal law	
Week Five 31/3/2015	Roles of the Courts:	
2/3/2015	Interpreting the law Judicial Review	Susan Corbett
4/4/2015 – 19/4/2015	MID TRIMESTER BREAK	
Week Six 21/4/2015	Categorising the law	
23/4/2015		Susan Corbett
Week Seven 28/4/2015	Rights	Jonathan Barrett
30/4/2015		
Week Eight 5/5/2015	Contracts	Joanthon Barrett
7/5/2015		
Week Nine 12/5/2015	Torts	Jonathan Barrett
14/5/2015		
Week Ten 19/5/2015	Ethics and Integrity	Michael Macaulay

21/5/2015	Public Policy Process	Russell Harding
Week Eleven 26/5/2015	Climate Change	Jonathan Boston
28/5/2015	Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement	Chris Eichbaum
Week Twelve 2/6/2015	Globalisation	Russell Harding
4/6/2015	Exam Briefing and Wrap-Up	Russell Harding Brad Jackson

Attendance at lectures is essential to gain full benefit from the course. Interaction with the lecturers and fellow students is a crucial to developing critical competencies.

Tutorials

IMPORTANT

- You **MUST** sign up by the end of the **FIRST** week of lectures.
- All workshops & tutorials start in **Week 2 beginning Monday 10 March 2015.**
- The Writing Skills Workshops are taught by your assigned tutors in the first three tutorials.

How to sign up:

1. You can start the signup process on **Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 6:00 p.m.** Signups close at **10.00 am on Friday 6 March 2015 at 10:00 a.m.** – you must have signed up for a class by then! Early enrolment will provide maximum choice of tutorial times.
2. Go to the signup website: <https://signups.victoria.ac.nz>
3. Enter your SCS username and password to get in.
4. The “Signup Home” page opens. It displays all of the courses you are enrolled in that will use the Signups system. Click on **FCOM 111.**
5. The FCOM 111 course page opens, showing the schedule of session times and locations.
6. If there are spaces left in a particular session, then you will see the “ENROL” button next to it. You can click the “**ENROL**” button to enrol in that particular session.
7. If there are no more spaces left you must enrol in another session!
8. You can choose to “WITHDRAW” from a session you have already enrolled for. There are NO waitlists for FCOM 111.
9. A “FULL” button indicates all seats are full for that particular tutorial session. **You must choose another session.**
10. The “KEY” section at the bottom of the page contains information about the buttons.

11. You can view/confirm the details of the sessions that you are enrolled in by clicking on “My Signups” on the left hand menu. **You will be able to confirm the details after 10.00 a.m. on Monday 9 March 2015.**
12. If you are having problems using the Signups system, then click on the “Support” link on the left hand menu.
13. If you miss the sign-up you must see Russell Harding in EA109 **after 10 a.m. on Friday 6 March 2015 but before 4:00 p.m. on Friday 6 March 2015.** After the close of the sign-up period, choice of tutorial times will be limited. To get the tutorial time of your choice, sign up early as detailed above.

Tutorial Content

Writing Workshops

Note: The writing workshops are conducted by your assigned tutors in the first three tutorials.

Writing skills are essential for university and your later working life. The Faculty of Commerce has key learning objectives related to communication and supports this writing component of the course to help students gain the basic skills required for tertiary level learning. This is a first step to develop and build on your writing skills.

Date	Content	Readings
Week One 2/3/2015	No Tutorials	
Week Two 9/3/2015	Writing Workshop 1: The Writing Process Why is writing important: The writing process and how to analyse your FCOM essay question.	VBS Writing Skills Workbook – available at your writing session
Week Three 16/3/2015	Writing Workshop 2: Structure & Academic Integrity How to structure an essay; How to reference and why it is important	VBS Writing Skills Workbook – please bring your booklet to the session
Week Four 23/3/2015	Writing Workshop 3: Polishing Your Writing Developing the skills of editing and proofing	VBS Writing Skills Workbook – please bring your booklet to the session
Week Five 30/3/2015	Tutorial One: Law and Society	Readings: Extracts from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the <i>Harmful Digital Communications Bill</i> • <i>Submission by Television New Zealand Ltd to the Justice and Electoral Committee on the</i>

		<i>Harmful Digital Communications Bill</i> , 20 February 2014. <i>Submission by Vodafone to the Justice and Electoral Committee on the Harmful Digital Communications Bill</i> , 21 February 2014
4/4/2015 – 19/4/2015 MID TRIMESTER BREAK		
Week Six 20/4/2015 –	Tutorial Two Sources of Law	Readings: Chapter 3, “Sources of New Zealand Law” in L Miller <i>Understanding Commercial Law</i> (8 th Edn) 2014, LexisNexis, Wellington (To be posted on Blackboard)
Week Seven 27/4/2015	Tutorial Three: Statutory Interpretation	Readings: <i>Motor Vehicle Dealers Institute v Ball</i> [2014] DCR 294
Week Eight 4/5/2015	Tutorial Four: Contract Law	Readings: <i>Wine Country Credit Union v Rayner</i> [2008] 2 NZLR 698
Week Nine 11/5/2015	Tutorial Five: Torts	Readings: <i>Crouch v Attorney-General</i> [2008] NZSC 45, [2008] 3 NZLR 725 paras [73] to [131]
Week Ten 18/5/2015	Tutorial Six: Public Policy	Shaw, R. and C. Eichbaum (2011) <i>Public Policy in New Zealand: Institutions, processes and Outcomes</i> , 3 rd Edition, Pearson, Auckland. Chapter Two – <i>The Policy Process</i> .
Week Eleven 25/5/2015	Tutorial Seven: Government, Globalisation and Business	Heywood, A. (2007). “Global Politics”, Chapter 7 in <i>Politics</i> (3 rd ed.) (pp. 127-161). Basingstoke UK: Palgrave Macmillan.
Week Twelve 1/6/2015	Tutorial Eight: Final Exam Review	

Readings

Readings for this course are included on the FCOM 111 Blackboard site under Course Materials. Additional material and readings may be distributed at lectures or Tutorials or posted on Blackboard.

Students need to study the readings closely, and make full use of them in their tutorials and written assignments. In marking assignments, it will be assumed that you have studied the relevant readings, reflected on them, and formed a considered view of the issues raised. This is what is meant by

“critically” as set out in the Course Objectives. Note that the Course Criteria for marking the Essays in this Course includes marks for “... showing evidence of completing the relevant readings”.

Students are reminded that a substantial part of their overall grade is based on tutorial Worksheets which directly test your understanding of the Course Readings. The specific Readings for each Worksheet are listed at the top of each Worksheet.

Assessment

There are four assessments in this course:

Government Essay (25%);
Legal Test (25%);
Tutorial Worksheets (20%);
Final Course Examination (30%).

ASSESSMENT ONE: GOVERNMENT ESSAY (25%)

The government has announced that there will be two referenda held to choose a new New Zealand flag.

Discuss the difference(s) between a binding and a non-binding referendum and the advantages and disadvantages of each type of referendum. Based on your analysis, which type of referendum do you think should be applied to choosing the flag and why?

You should utilise the materials and skills you have acquired from the three Writing Skills Workshops to ensure your essay meets the standards required of a first year/100-level piece of academic writing.

Information on the APA Referencing system can be found at:
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/studyhub/handouts.aspx and in the FCA Writing Resource booklet.

Due: **Wednesday 1 April 2015 by 1:00 p.m.** Submission is electronically through Blackboard.

For Late Essays please see page 12.

Word length: No more than 1500 words

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.

ASSESSMENT TWO: LEGAL TEST (25%)

The Test covers legal lectures up to the end of **Week 6**.

This is a closed-book test lasting one hour. It will consist of a mixture of short to medium length written answer questions.

The rooms allocated for this test will be posted on Blackboard and advised in Lectures and Tutorials.

Date: **Thursday 7 May 2015 at 6.15 pm.**

ASSESSMENT THREE: TUTORIAL WORKSHEETS (20%)

Tutorial Worksheets make up 20 per cent of the overall course grade for FCOM 111. All students **MUST** submit **AT LEAST SIX (6)** tutorial worksheets.

The best five (5) marked worksheets will be used to calculate this proportion of your FCOM 111 final grade.

The Worksheets will be available for downloading on blackboard.

Completed worksheets are to be submitted through Blackboard by 12:00 noon on Wednesday of the due date on the worksheet. **Note: late worksheets will not be accepted – no exceptions.**

Take care in submitting worksheets. Make sure you have attached the right file (MS Word format) BEFORE hitting the Submit key.

ASSESSMENT FOUR: THE FINAL COURSE EXAMINATION (30%)

A two hour examination covering all the material from the entire course.

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

Examination dates for Trimester one: Friday 12 June – Wednesday 1 July (inclusive)

Details and the date of the final exam will be posted on Blackboard.

Penalties

Late Assignments and Essays will have their total mark reduced by one mark for each day they are overdue unless PRIOR permission has been granted. Late Assignments and Essays are to be submitted online as for normal submission. The computer will mark the submissions late.

Assignments and Essays submitted over ten (10) days late will not be marked and you will be awarded 0% for this assessment.

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.

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 12 June – Wednesday 1 July (inclusive)

Mandatory Course Requirements

In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50 per cent or better, students must meet the following mandatory course requirements:

- a) Attend all three of the Writing Skills Workshops (Weeks 2, 3, and 4);

AND

- b) Attend at least SIX of the EIGHT Tutorials (starting in Week 5) and sign the roll as present. If you arrive late then your tutor may not award you with 'attendance' for that tutorial;

AND

- c) Submit at least SIX of the EIGHT Tutorial Worksheets. Note that the first Tutorial Worksheet is due in Week 4 (the third Writing Skills Workshop);

AND

- d) Submit the Government Essay;

AND

- e) Sit the Legal Test;

AND

- f) Sit the Final Course Examination.

Students whose total course marks are greater than 50 per cent, but who do not fulfil **ALL** of the Mandatory Course Requirements will fail the course. They will not receive a graded result for FCOM 111. Their records will show a “K” (an ungraded fail).

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

Blackboard is the electronic platform that informs this course. All course materials, course notices and communications and will be placed on Blackboard (<http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>).

Early Alerts (Course Signals)

This course is using the Early Alerts (Course Signals) System which aims to help students to be successful in their study at VUW. The system is designed to help students assess their progress in their study, so that they can adjust their work effort or seek support early in the semester, to help them succeed.

Students will receive a traffic light signal through the course Blackboard page:



Green tick means high likelihood of succeeding in the course (if your progress does not decline).



Yellow triangle means potential problem with succeeding in the course (if your progress does not improve); and



Red cross means high likelihood of failing the course (if your progress does not improve);

Students will also receive email messages from their Course Coordinator via their Blackboard email address, which by default is their @myVUW account.

Information on resources and support services are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support

Student feedback

As a result of student feedback on this course in previous trimesters, some changes in content and timing of material in lectures and tutorials has been made. 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.
