

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

COML 203 Legal Environment of Business

Trimester 2, 2015

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

<i>Course Coordinator & Lecturer</i>	Dr Hamish Dempster	RH 721	463 6706
	hamish.dempster@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: email to make an appointment		
<i>Lecturer</i>	Dr Amanda Reilly	RH 723	463 6958
	amanda.reilly@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: email to make an appointment		
<i>Duty Tutor</i>	Evan Brenton-Rule		
	Duty Tutor Hours	Monday 12:00-1:30pm	RWW124
<i>Course Administrator</i>	Lee Vassiliadis	RH 708	463 5383
	lee.vassiliadis@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am-5pm (Note: Office closed 10.30am-10.45am and 3.30pm-3.45pm)		

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 13 July – Friday 16 October

Study Period: Monday 19 October – Thursday 22 October

Examination Period: Friday 23 October – Saturday 14 November (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 24 July 2015.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 25 September 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 or [online](#).

Class Times and Room Numbers

Mondays and Wednesdays 10.30-11.20 am
Rutherford House Lecture Theatre 2 (RHLT 2)

Course Delivery

The formal instruction in this course consists of 24 lectures of 50 minutes each, plus six tutorials of 50 minutes each. Before attending the lectures, you should read the relevant parts of the textbook. Before each tutorial, you should read and work through the tutorial questions. The Test and Final Exam will be set assuming students have attended all lectures and tutorials.

Tutorial Sessions:

Tutorial sign up instructions for 'MyAllocator' can be found on Blackboard under 'Tutorials'.

The tutorial programme contains a number of topics, which are related to, and approximately in sequence with the lecture programme. Tutorials will focus on developing legal problem solving skills. You will be encouraged to present your tutorial work to your tutorial group.

Please note that tutors are instructed not to make available to students the tutorial notes provided to the tutors by the lecturers.

Expected Workload

It is expected that students' workload in this course will be, on average, 15 hours a week – total 150 hours. Students' workload will be made up as follows: Lectures 24 hours, background reading lectures 42 hours, tutorial contact, prep and assignments 34 hours, review of material for test and examination 50 hours.

Prescription

An overview of the New Zealand legal system, with a focus on areas of the law relevant to the business environment, including tort and contract law. (This prescription has been changed to meet the requirements of professional bodies that accredit the B Com degree.)

Course Learning Objectives

Students passing this course should be able to:

1. Analyse the functions of the New Zealand legal system.
2. Analyse legal issues and use this analysis to provide potential solutions to legal problems.
3. Analyse legislation.
4. Describe relationships within and between the branches of the New Zealand Government.

Course Content

The topics covered are listed on the lecture schedule on page 5. A reading list and detailed lecture outlines will be provided by the lecturer responsible for each topic.

Readings

The prescribed text for this course is:

Jeremy Hubbard, Cordelia Thomas, Sally Varnham, *Principles of Law for New Zealand Business Students*, 5th edition, Pearson.

Assessment

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

In detail the criteria of assessment and their respective values are:

Test (One hour, open book - Tues 8 Sep 2015 at 6.15pm)	20%
Assignment (1,000 words due 2 October at 2pm)	20%
Examination (Two hours, open book)	60%
Total	100%

Note: Assignments are to be placed in boxes labelled COML 203 on the Mezzanine floor of Rutherford House.

Penalties

If the Assignment is submitted later than the due date and time, without prior permission from the Course Coordinator, 5% of the mark will be deducted for each additional day. The assignment word limit must be adhered to and, if it is exceeded, any excess words will not be marked.

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.

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 23 October – Saturday 14 November (inclusive)

Mandatory Course Requirements

In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50 or better, students must attend five out of six tutorials, complete the assignment and sit the test and final examination.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

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(s) will be elected in the first class, and their names and contact details made available to VUWSA, the course coordinator and the class. The class representatives provide a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information will be available on Blackboard.

Student feedback

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 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	Week Beginning	Topic	Tutorial	Lecturer
1	13 July	What is Law? The New Zealand Constitution		HD
2	20 July	Statutory interpretation Statutory interpretation		HD
3	27 July	Judicial precedent Civil obligations	Tutorial 1	HD
4	3 August	Contract law Contract law	Tutorial 2	HD
5	10 August	Contract law Contract law		HD
6	17 August	Rights Resolving business disputes	Tutorial 3	AR
		<i>Mid-Trimester Break</i> <i>24 August – 6 September</i>		
7	7 September	MID-TRIMESTER TEST (Tues 8 Sep 2015 6.15pm) Employment Agreements Torts (other than negligence)		AR
8	14 September	Torts (other than negligence) Torts (other than negligence)	Tutorial 4	AR
9	21 September	Negligence Negligence		AR
10	28 September	ACC Intellectual property ASSIGNMENT DUE 2 OCTOBER 2 PM	Tutorial 5	AR
11	5 October	Intellectual Property Personal Property		AR/HD
12	12 October	Real Property Course Review	Tutorial 6	HD/AR