

## SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

### FCOM 111 Government, Law and Business

Trimester 2, 2015

## COURSE OUTLINE

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## **Names and Contact Details**

### **Course Coordinator**

#### **Dr Russell Harding**

Room: EA 109, Easterfield Building  
Faculty of Commerce Kelburn Campus Office  
Phone: 463-5686 (if inside VUW, x 5686)  
Email: [russell.harding@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:russell.harding@vuw.ac.nz)

## **Trimester Dates**

Teaching Period: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Study Period: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Examination Period: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **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

	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHERE</b>
<b>CRN 17244</b>	Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.	MCLT 103
	Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.	MCLT 103
<b>CRN 17245</b>	Tuesday 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.	MCLT 103
	Thursday: 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.	MCLT 103

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. A total of 150 hours should be devoted to 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 businesses 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, of which FCOM 111 is one of the core courses.

## 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	Integrity and ethics
Learning Goal 5	Independent, collaborative and professional work skills

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, 4 LG 1, 2,5	1500 word essay due by noon on Wednesday <b>12 August 2015</b> (Government Essay)
CLO 2, 3 LG 1, 2, 5	Legal Test: Monday <b>7 September 2015 at 6:15 p.m.</b>
CLO 1, 2, 3, 5 LG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Weekly tutorial worksheets – <b>due weekly.</b>
CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 LG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Final Course Examination – Date <b>TBA</b> Examination period – <b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b> – <b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November (inclusive)</b>

## Course Content

### **Lecture Outline and Schedule**

Week/Date	Lecture	Lecturer
<u>Week One</u> 14/7/2015	Introduction State and Market	Russell Harding
16/7/2015	Library Presentation Private Sector Provision of Public Services – Social Bonds	Thomas Martin TBA
<u>Week Two</u> 21/7/2015	Constitution	Russell Harding
23/7/2015	Electoral Systems	Chris Eichbaum
<u>Week Three</u> 28/7/2015	Political Parties and Ideology	Chris Eichbaum
30/7/2015	State Sector and Judiciary	Russell Harding
<u>Week Four</u> 4/8/2015	Functions of Law Law and Society	Susan Corbett
6/8/2015	Civil law and criminal law	
<u>Week Five</u> 11/8/2015	Roles of the Courts	Susan Corbett
13/8/2015	Interpreting the law Judicial Review	
<u>Week Six</u> 18/8/2015	Categorising the law	Susan Corbett
20/8/2015		
24/8/2015 – 6/9/2015		
<u>Week Seven</u> 8/9/2015	Rights	Jonathan Barrett
10/9/2015		
<u>Week Eight</u> 15/9/2015	Contracts	Jonathan Barrett
17/9/2015		
<u>Week Nine</u> 22/9/2015	Torts	Jonathan Barrett
24/9/2015		
<u>Week Ten</u> 29/9/2015	Ethics and Integrity	Michael Macaulay
1/10/2015	Public Policy Process	Russell Harding

Week/Date	Lecture	Lecturer
Week Eleven 6/10/2015	Climate Change	Jonathan Boston
8/10/2015	Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement	Chris Eichbaum
Week Twelve 13/10/2015	Globalisation	Russell Harding
15/10/2015	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 on Monday 20 July 2015.**

### How to sign up:

1. You can start the signup process on **Tuesday 14 July 2015 at 6:00 p.m.** Signups close at **on Thursday 16 July 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.

### Go to the signup website:

1. **Logging in** - Log into <https://student-sa.victoria.ac.nz/>  
Further instructions are contained in the myAllocator Student Guide on Blackboard.
2. If you miss the above sign-up dates you must see Russell Harding in EA109 **between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Friday 17 July 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 Tutorials

The first three tutorials (weeks two to four) cover academic writing skills.

Writing skills are essential for university and professional working life. The Faculty of Commerce has key learning objectives related to communication and supports this writing component 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Week One 13/7/2015	No Tutorials	
Week Two 20/7/2015	<b>Tutorial One: The Writing Process</b> 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 27/7/2015	<b>Tutorial Two: Structure &amp; Academic Integrity</b> 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 3/8/2015	<b>Tutorial Three: Polishing Your Writing</b> Developing the skills of editing and proofing	VBS Writing Skills Workbook – please bring your booklet to the session
Week Five 10/8/2015	<b>Tutorial Four: Law and Society</b>	Readings will be posted on Blackboard
Week Six 17/8/2015 – 24/8/2015 – 6/9/2015	MID TRIMESTER BREAK	
Week Seven 7/9/2015	<b>Tutorial Six: Statutory Interpretation</b>	Readings will be posted on Blackboard
Week Eight 14/9/2015	<b>Tutorial Seven: Rights</b>	Readings will be posted on Blackboard
Week Nine 21/9/2015	<b>Tutorial Eight: Contract Law</b>	Readings will be posted on Blackboard
Week Ten 28/9/2015	<b>Tutorial Nine: Torts</b>	Readings will be posted on Blackboard
Week Eleven 5/10/2015	<b>Tutorial Ten: Ethics</b>	Readings will be posted on Blackboard
Week Twelve 12/10/2015	<b>Tutorial Eleven: Final Exam Review</b>	

## **Readings**

Readings for this course are included on the FCOM 111 Blackboard site in the *Course Materials* folder. 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 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 criteria for marking the essays in this Course includes marks for evidence of having completed the relevant readings and having undertaken additional, independent research.

## **Assessment**

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

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 wants private and public sector organisations to operate together to fund and deliver public services. The 2015 budget set aside \$28.8 million for four social bond programmes. The first will expand on a small pilot delivering employment services to people with mental health problems.

Discuss the concept of a social bond and analyse the strengths and weaknesses of it for delivering public services. Conclude with a discussion of the appropriate contribution of government and business in delivering public services.

You should utilise the materials and skills you have acquired from the three writing tutorials to ensure your essay meets the standards required of first year academic writing.

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

**Due:** **Wednesday 12 August 2015 by noon** Submission is electronically through Blackboard.

For Late Essays please see page 10.

**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 commercial law material from weeks four, five and six.

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: **Monday 7 September 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 marked – no exceptions.**

**Take care in submitting worksheets. Make sure you have attached the right file (MS Word format) BEFORE hitting the Submit key. Staff and tutors are not available to correct mistakes. Please do not ask.**

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**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.

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

**Examination dates for Trimester one:** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November (inclusive)

### **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 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November (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 tutorials (Weeks 2, 3, and 4);

**AND**

- b) Attend at least SIX of the EIGHT tutorials (starting in Week 5). If you arrive late then your tutor may not record your attendance for that tutorial;

**AND**

- c) Submit at least SIX tutorial worksheets. Note that the first tutorial worksheet is due in week three;

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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