



# School of Accounting and Commercial Law

# **COML 203 Legal Environment of Business**

Trimester 1, 2016

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

# Prescription

An overview of the New Zealand legal system with a focus on the areas of the law relevant to the business environment, including elements of contract, administrative law and the law of organisations. Please note From Trimester Two its current requirement of 15 points is removed. FCOM111 is a new prerequisite for COML 203.

# **Course Learning Objectives**

Students passing this course should be able to:

- 1. Examine features of selected areas of business law
- 2. Evaluate the relevance of selected areas of law to business
- 3. Demonstrate competence in applying legal problem solving skills to fact situations.

### **Course Content**

The topics covered are listed on the lecture schedule on page 5. Readings for each topic will be provided by the lecturer responsible for that topic.

#### **Trimester Dates**

Teaching Period: Monday 29th February – Friday 3rd June

Study Period: Monday 6th June – Thursday 9th June

Examination Period: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June (inclusive)

# Withdrawal from Course

- 1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
- 2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016. 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.

#### Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator & Lecturer	Trish Keeper trish.keeper@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: email to ma	RH 617 ke an appointment	463 5203
Lecturer	Craig Dickson craig.dickson@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBC	RH 714	463 6787

Duty Tutors	Evan Brenton-Rule Vladimir Samoylov			
	Duty Tutor Hours	Tuesday 11.30am – 12.20pm Thursday 2.40 – 3.30pm	RWW 124	
Course Administrator	Lee Vassiliadis lee.vassiliadis@vuw.ac.nz	RH 708	463 5383	
	Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am-5pm (Note: Office closed 10.30am-10.45am and 3.30pm-3.45pm)			

#### **Class Times and Room Numbers**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12.40-13.30 pm Rutherford House Lecture Theatre 1 (RHLT 1)

#### **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.

#### Readings

The prescribed text for this course is:

Leigh Miller, Understanding Commercial law 8th edition (Lexis Nexis 2014).

#### 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 the final examination.

If you believe that exceptional circumstances may prevent you from meeting the mandatory course requirements, contact the Course Coordinator for advice 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

### 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.

#### Assessment

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

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

Assessment	Details	Weighting
Test	Open book. Wednesday 13 April 2016 from 6.15 pm to	20%
	7.15 pm	
Assignment	1000 words. Due Thursday 12 May 2016 at 2 pm	20%
Examination	Two hours, open book	60%
Total		100%

The Test will examine the material covered in the first 3 weeks. The Assignment will examine material covered in weeks 4 to 6. Note: Assignments are to be placed in boxes labelled COML 203 on the Mezzanine floor of Rutherford House.

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June (inclusive)

# 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 <u>http://www.turnitin.com</u>. 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.

#### Student feedback

In the most recent feedback provided by students, some students requested more examples to assist in understanding how the relevant law applies. Consequently, examples are provided for all the main legal propositions taught in class:

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

#### **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 will be available on Blackboard.

#### Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to <u>http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information</u>

#### 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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# Lecture Schedule

Week Beginning	Торіс	Tutorial	Lecturer
29 Feb	What is Law?		TK
	New Zealand Constitution		
7 Mar	Statutory Interpretation		ТК
	Statutory Interpretation		
14 Mar	Resolving Business Disputes	Tutorial 1	ТК
	Judicial Precedent		
21 Mar	Civil Obligations		TK
28 Mar	Agency		TK
4 Apr	Contract Law	Tutorial 2	ТК
	Contract Law		
11 Apr	Contract Law		ТК
	Test: 13 April 2016, 6.15 pm to 7.15 pm		
	Contract Law		
18 Apr	Employment Agreements	Tutorial 3	CD
	Employment Agreements		
	Mid-Trimester Break		
	25 to 29 April 2016		
<b>9</b> 2 May	Introduction to Torts	Tutorial 4	CD
	Torts (other than Negligence)		
<b>10</b> 9 May	Negligence		CD
	Negligence		
	Assignment due (12 May 2016, 2.00 pm)		
16 May	ACC	Tutorial 5	CD
	Intellectual property		
23 May	Intellectual Property		CD
	Personal Property		
30 May	Real Property	Tutorial 6	CD
	Course Review		
	Beginning   29 Feb   7 Mar   14 Mar   21 Mar   28 Mar   4 Apr   11 Apr   18 Apr   2 May   9 May   16 May   23 May	BeginningImage: Second status29 FebWhat is Law? New Zealand Constitution7 MarStatutory Interpretation Statutory Interpretation14 MarResolving Business Disputes Judicial Precedent21 MarCivil Obligations28 MarAgency4 AprContract Law 	BeginningImage: Construction29 FebWhat is Law? New Zealand Constitution7 MarStatutory Interpretation Statutory Interpretation14 MarResolving Business Disputes Judicial Precedent21 MarCivil Obligations28 MarAgency4 AprContract Law Contract Law11 AprContract Law Contract Law18 AprEmployment Agreements Employment Agreements18 AprEmployment Agreements Employment Agreements29 MayIntroduction to Torts Torts (other than Negligence)9 MayNegligence Negligence Assignment due (12 May 2016, 2.00 pm)16 MayACC Intellectual Property23 MayIntellectual Property30 MayReal Property30 MayReal Property30 MayReal Property

TK= Trish Keeper CD=Craig Dickson