

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

## COML 203 Legal Environment of Business

Trimester 1, 2016

### COURSE OUTLINE

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#### 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 29<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Study Period: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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

<i>Course Coordinator &amp; Lecturer</i>	Trish Keeper trish.keeper@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: email to make an appointment	RH 617	463 5203
<i>Lecturer</i>	Craig Dickson craig.dickson@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBC	RH 714	463 6787



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

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

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

### **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](http://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 <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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## *Lecture Schedule*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Week Beginning</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Tutorial</b>	<b>Lecturer</b>
<b>1</b>	29 Feb	What is Law? New Zealand Constitution		TK
<b>2</b>	7 Mar	Statutory Interpretation Statutory Interpretation		TK
<b>3</b>	14 Mar	Resolving Business Disputes Judicial Precedent	Tutorial 1	TK
<b>4</b>	21 Mar	Civil Obligations		TK
<b>5</b>	28 Mar	Agency		TK
<b>6</b>	4 Apr	Contract Law Contract Law	Tutorial 2	TK
<b>7</b>	11 Apr	Contract Law <b>Test: 13 April 2016, 6.15 pm to 7.15 pm</b> Contract Law		TK
<b>8</b>	18 Apr	Employment Agreements Employment Agreements	Tutorial 3	CD
		<b>Mid-Trimester Break</b> <b>25 to 29 April 2016</b>		
<b>9</b>	2 May	Introduction to Torts Torts (other than Negligence)	Tutorial 4	CD
<b>10</b>	9 May	Negligence Negligence <b>Assignment due (12 May 2016, 2.00 pm)</b>		CD
<b>11</b>	16 May	ACC Intellectual property	Tutorial 5	CD
<b>12</b>	23 May	Intellectual Property Personal Property		CD
<b>13</b>	30 May	Real Property Course Review	Tutorial 6	CD

TK= Trish Keeper  
CD=Craig Dickson