

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

COML 405 SPECIAL TOPIC: COMMERCIAL LAW AND TAXATION RESEARCH

Trimester 1, 2016

COURSE OUTLINE

Prescription

This course provides students with an understanding of research methodologies, legal theories, and skills required for successful postgraduate study in law and taxation. It will address research issues and develop tools for postgraduate study.

Course Learning Objectives

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- (1) Analyse selected legal research methodologies and philosophies;
- (2) Evaluate different legal databases and legal referencing relevant to law and taxation;
- (3) Analyse common law;
- (4) Undertake independent research in commercial law or taxation

Course Content

This special topic is a supervised research project that provides students with the opportunity to undertake independent research in a specific area of commercial law.

Trimester Dates

From Monday 29th February to Friday 3rd June 2016.

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 11th March 2016.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 13th 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 & Lecturer</i>	Hamish Dempster hamish.dempster@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: TBA	RH 721	463 6706
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Lecturer Susan Corbett RH 722 463 5480
susan.corbett@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: TBA

Course Administrator Rachel Qi RH 708 463 7465
rachel.qi@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30am-5pm
(Note: Office closed 10.30am-10.45am and 3.30pm-3.45pm)

Class Times and Room Numbers

Whilst there are no formal classes, students are expected to meet regularly with their allocated supervisor as directed. It is expected those meetings will occur on Fridays between 9.00am to 10.20am at the lecturers' offices.

Course Delivery

Students are expected to discuss course readings at the Friday meetings.

Readings

Your supervisor will assist you with relevant readings. However, you will be expected to engage primarily in independent research.

Mandatory course requirements

In order to pass COML405 it is necessary to submit a satisfactorily completed:

- (1) critique and review of a selected article (500 words);
- (2) literature or historical review of a selected area of law (2000 words); and
- (3) research paper (5000 words).

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, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

General Guidelines on Research Paper

1. Students are responsible in the first instance for selecting a topic and approaching potential supervisors. Once agreement between a student and staff member is reached, the co-ordinator will be advised by the staff member. Should a student experience difficulty with selecting a topic and/or finding an appropriate supervisor they should advise the co-ordinator as soon as possible.
2. Word limit 5,000. This is a guideline only. Some types of work may be shorter or longer than this. Your supervisor will advise you on the appropriate length of your project.
3. Each student is required to adhere strictly to deadlines set. Extensions will only be granted in extenuating circumstances and can only be approved by the co-ordinator. Students must not request extensions from their supervisor.

Due Dates

Agreement reached on supervisor and topic area	15 Mar
One page description of the project as agreed with the supervisor	22 Mar
A first draft approximately 30% complete	29 April
A second draft – a good draft with the project essentially complete	20 May
Final version submitted for assessment	27 May
Present your research findings to the lecturers and fellow COML405 students	3 June

Expected Workload

The expected workload for COML405 is approximately 12 hours per week for each week of the trimester. Overall, you should expect to spend approximately 150 hours on COML 405.

Assessment

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

The assessment is:

- (1) 15% for a critique and review of a selected article;
- (2) 25% for a literature or historical review of a selected area of law; and
- (3) 60% for the research paper.

You are also required to present the results of your research paper at a seminar on **Friday 3rd June 2016**. You will have 15 minutes for your presentation, plus another 5 minutes for questions.

Penalties

Research papers that are submitted after the due date of 27 May 2016 will incur a penalty. The penalty will be 5% per day for late submission of the research paper.

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

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php. This course will be taught for the first time this trimester. Feedback from this trimester is likely to result in adjustments to the course in the future.

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 communicated via email or 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.
