

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

MMPA 503 BUSINESS LAW

Trimester 1, 2016

COURSE OUTLINE

Prescription

The impact of the legal system and the legislative process on selected aspects of the business environment.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- (a) Understand the functions of the New Zealand legal system;
- (b) Have an understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi and legal issues arising from it;
- (c) Analyse contractual issues;
- (d) Have a general understanding of specific areas of commercial law;
- (e) Analyse legal issues and potential solutions to legal problems;
- (f) Analyse and understand legislation.

Course Content

The aim of this course is to provide an understanding of the legal principles that impact on business, in particular an understanding of the legal system and of the law relating to civil obligations in business. The course is divided into three main parts. The first part provides an introduction to law, an explanation of some key concepts and the legal method. Within this part, the participants will also get an understanding of how civil legal obligations arise in business – under statute, rules of equity, torts and contracts. The second part deals with civil obligations that relate to the law of contracts and negligence. The third part covers selected issues in business law.

Trimester Dates

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

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

Examination Period: Friday 10th June – Wednesday 29th June (inclusive)

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>	Trish Keeper trish.keeper@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: By appointment	RH 617	463 5203
<i>Course Administrator</i>	Rebekah Sage rebekah.sage@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30 am-5.00 pm	RH 728	463 6921

Class Times and Room Numbers

Monday: 5.40-8.30 pm
Venue: GB LT4 (Government Buildings Lecture Theatre 4), Pipitea Campus

Course Delivery

The course is delivered in one three-hour lecture per week. A lecture schedule is provided (see the last page of the Course Outline).

Readings

Required Reading:

Hubbard, J., Thomas, C., & Varnham, S. (2012). *Principles of Law for New Zealand Business Students* (5th ed.). Auckland: Pearson.

Additional Materials:

Power point slides and other handouts will be made available on Blackboard before each class.

Students are expected to read the readings set for each session in preparation for that session. They are also expected to prepare answers to any tutorial or workshop questions in order to participate fully in that part of the session.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of at least 50%, students must obtain at least 40% for the Assignments combined.

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 will work for 150 hours across the course. Lectures account for 36 hours of this time. Accordingly, students are expected to allocate seven hours per week during the teaching weeks (outside of class) to lecture preparation, lecture review, readings, and assignments, and a further 30 hours preparing for the final assessment.

Assessment

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see

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

Assessment Item	%	Date	Course Learning Objectives Assessed
Assignment 1 (1,200 words max)	20%	due at the start of class on Monday 11 April 2016	a & f
Assignment 2 (1,600 words max)	30%	due at the start of class on Monday 16 May 2016	c, d & e
Exam (Open Book; 2 hours)	50%	TBC (see 'Examinations')	a, c, d, e & f

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 10th June – Wednesday 29th June (inclusive)

Penalties

Assignment

The assignment must be handed in on or before the due date and time. In fairness to other students, any assignment submitted after the deadline will be subject to a penalty of 3% of the total marks available for every day or part of a day (including Saturdays and Sundays) that the assignment is submitted late. For example, an assignment marked out of 100 due by 2pm on Monday 1 January but submitted at 1 pm on Wednesday 3 January, would have 6 marks deducted.

An extension or waiver (with no penalty) will be considered on the grounds of exceptional personal circumstances. Students must complete the 'Assignment Extension/Waiver Application Form' available on Blackboard and submit the form (with the relevant supporting documentation) to the MPA Administrator, preferably before the assignment due date.

Note: The submission of an application does not mean that the extension has been approved. Penalties, as detailed above, will apply if the extension is not granted.

Exceptional Personal Circumstances include an impairment assessed by Disability Services, illness, bereavement, circumstances involving the health or wellbeing of a relative or close friend, compulsory attendance at court, national or international representative commitments, significant cultural commitments, or activities in which the student is representing the University.

*Note: Not being organised or failing to plan ahead are **not** exceptional circumstances.*

Group Work

Collaboration on individual assignments is not allowed beyond general discussion as to the nature of the assignment question. Please do not work together to produce any written work and do not loan out your completed assignments.

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.

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 concerning this course will be provided in lectures and posted on Blackboard: <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>. Urgent notices will be circulated by email.

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.

Lecture Schedule

Wk	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading Material (page references will be provided for each topic in slides)
1	29 Feb	Introduction to Law: Classifications and Sources of New Zealand law, the Constitution and Treaty of Waitangi	Chapters 1, 2 & 5 Hubbard
2	7 Mar	Legislative Process and making sense of legislation	Chapters 3 & 6 Hubbard
3	14 Mar	The Structure of the Courts Judicial Method – Case Law & Precedent	Chapters 7 & 8 Hubbard
4	21 Mar	Judicial Method – Case Law & Precedent Introduction to Civil Legal Obligations	See Blackboard and Chapter 8 Hubbard
6	4 April	Formation of the contract	Chapters 10 and 11 Hubbard
7	11 April	Formation of the contract Assignment One due	Chapters 10 and 11 Hubbard
8	18 April	Obstacles to the formation of valid contracts	Chapters 12 & 13 Hubbard
MID TRIMESTER BREAK (Monday 25 April 2016 to Sunday 1 May 2016)			
9	2 May	Interpretation and performance of contracts and remedies for breach	Chapters 14 & 15 Hubbard
10	9 May	Civil Legal Obligations: Introduction to Torts with a focus on Negligence	Chapter 9 Hubbard
11	16 May	Negligence and negligent misstatement Assignment Two due	Chapter 9 Hubbard
12	23 May	Selected issues in business law (Fair Trading Act 1986)	Chapter 16 Hubbard
13	30 May	Selected issues in business law (intellectual property and competition law)	Chapter 23 Hubbard