

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

ACCY 410 ADVANCED TAXATION

Trimester 2, 2016

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details	Office	Phone
<i>Course Coordinator & Lecturer</i> Lisa Marriott lisa.marriott@vuw.ac.nz	RH 603	463 5938
<i>Course Administrator</i> Rachel Qi rachel.qi@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30am-5pm (Note: Office closed 10.30am-10.45am and 3.30pm-3.45pm)	RH Level 7 Enquiries Counter	463 7465

Trimester Dates

Monday 11th July – Friday 14th October

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 22th July 2016.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 23th September 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](#).

Class Times and Room Numbers

Mondays: 9.30am – 12.20pm
Railway West Wing RWW413
Pipitea Campus

Course Delivery

Lectures, discussions and feedback on assignments.

Group Work

While students are welcome to discuss course issues between themselves, there is NO group assessment of any kind. Any material subjected for assessment must be the student's own work.

Expected Workload

It is expected that students on average will spend about 10 hours per week reading, studying, preparing and writing their assignments.

Prescription

Analysis of New Zealand income taxation laws with specific reference to business tax payers, financing of business enterprises and cross-border transactions, and the Goods and Services Tax.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and explain some of the major issues currently facing the New Zealand tax system;
2. Understand and critically evaluate the key concepts in tax policy;
3. Apply tax policy criteria in evaluating the arguments for and against a current tax policy proposal;
4. Understand the links between tax policy and wider economic and social policy;
5. Undertake independent research on tax policy topics of their choice and write three concise papers which identify, discuss and critically evaluate tax policy issues.

Course Content

Students who take this course will examine a number of tax policy issues in New Zealand and tax policy concepts. They will research three current tax policy issues of their choice. The topics will be chosen after discussion with Lisa Marriott. A list of some of the possible topics is contained at the end of this Course Outline.

Readings

Recent reviews of the tax systems in New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom provide extensive materials for researchers. The preparatory materials and reports are all available online:

- The New Zealand tax system – <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacl/cagtr/twg/>
- The Australian tax system – <http://taxreview.treasury.gov.au/>
- The United Kingdom tax system - <http://www.ifs.org.uk/mirrleesReview>

In addition, material will be made available during the semester.

Materials and Equipment

There is no special equipment or other materials required to study in this course. All assignments must be typed and emailed to Lisa Marriott by the specified deadline.

Assessment

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

The course assessment is based on three written assignments.

To pass this course, you must obtain a weighted average mark of 50% or more from the three assessments.

	<i>Percentage of final grade</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Course Learning Objectives</i>
2,000 word essay	30%	Friday 19 August, 5.00pm Topic: Environmental taxes	ALL
2,500 word essay	35%	Friday 23 September, 5.00pm Topic: Taxes on food	ALL
2,500 word essay	35%	Friday 21 October, 5.00pm Topic of your choice (see end of the course outline for some suggestions)	ALL

Penalties

In fairness to other students, any assignment submitted after the deadline will be subject to a penalty of 5% 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 1pm on Wednesday 3 January, would be marked out of 100 and then have 10 marks deducted from the marks awarded. No marks will be awarded to any assignment submitted after the assignment has been discussed in class or marked and returned to other students or after 10 days have elapsed, whichever occurs first.

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.

Mandatory Course Requirements

All three assignments are to be submitted by the required dates.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to 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

Communication between students and the lecturer will be by email.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at 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.

ACCY 410 ASSIGNMENT TOPICS

Topic for Assignment One

Since 1 July 2010, New Zealand has had an emissions trading scheme. Examine the arguments for and against such environmental taxes.

Topic for Assignment Two

New Zealand is often praised by public finance economists for having a broad-based GST which includes all food. Yet some people continue to support the exemption of 'good' foods and/or increasing taxes on 'bad' foods. Examine the arguments on both sides of this debate.

Some Possible Tax Policy Research Topics for Assignment Three

1. In recent times, New Zealand has shown greater inclination towards introducing a capital gains tax. Examine the arguments for and against a capital gains tax and consider implementation problems which might arise in New Zealand.
2. New Zealand is unusual in not having a tax-free threshold for income earned. Analyse the arguments for and against having a tax-free threshold.
3. Since 1 July 2010, New Zealand has had an emissions trading scheme. Examine the arguments for and against an emissions trading scheme, with reference to a carbon tax.
4. Should New Zealand tax gambling winnings? Examine the arguments for and against taxing the winnings from gambling.
5. Analyse the arguments for and against raising the age of entitlement for New Zealand Superannuation.
6. The issue of income-splitting has been raised historically in New Zealand. Investigate the arguments for and against assessing income on a family or an individual basis.
7. New Zealand businesses frequently claim that they are disadvantaged as individuals may import goods such as books up to a value of \$400 without paying GST. Analyse this issue and comment on whether it is 'fair' for individuals to import low value goods without paying GST.
8. The tax system is often used to influence behaviour. Analyse the arguments for and against using the tax system to influence behaviour.
9. In New Zealand, there are heavy taxes on tobacco. Analyse the arguments for and against taxing tobacco.
10. New Zealand has no taxes that redistribute wealth that is passed between individuals, such as estate taxes, inheritance taxes or gift duties. Examine the arguments for and against these forms of wealth taxes.
11. In New Zealand, there are taxes on alcohol. Analyse the arguments for and against taxing alcohol.
12. Other topic of your choice as discussed with Lisa Marriott.

ACCY 410 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week No:	Week Beginning	Topic	Detail
1	11 Jul	Using the tax system to influence behaviour: retirement savings	Lecture
2	18 Jul	Using the tax system to influence behaviour	Lecture
3	25 Jul	The penalty system Interactions between the tax system and the welfare system	Lecture
4	1 Aug	Environmental taxes	Lecture
5	8 Aug	Assignment one	No meeting this week
6	15 Aug	Assignment one	No meeting this week Assignment One Due 5.00pm Friday 19 August
Mid-Trimester Break 22 August – 2 September			
7	5 Sep	No lecture this week / individual meetings by arrangement	
8	12 Sep	No lecture this week / individual meetings by arrangement	
9	19 Sep	Lecture topic to be confirmed	Assignment Two Due 5.00pm Friday 23 September
10	26 Sep	Lecture topic to be confirmed	
11	3 Oct	Lecture topic to be confirmed	
12	10 Oct	Lecture topic to be confirmed	Assignment Three Due 5.00pm Friday 21 October