

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

## COML 203 Legal Environment of Business

Trimester 2, 2016

### COURSE OUTLINE

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#### Prescription

An overview of the New Zealand legal system and the legislative process with an emphasis on their impact on 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 11<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Study Period: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Examination Period: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November (inclusive)

#### Withdrawal from Course

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

#### Names and Contact Details

<i>Course Coordinator</i>	Trish Keeper	RH 617	463 5203
	trish.keeper@vuw.ac.nz		
	Office Hours: email to make an appointment		

<i>Lecturer</i>	Craig Dickson	RH 714	463 6787
	craig.dickson@vuw.ac.nz		
	Office Hours: email to make an appointment		

<i>Lecturer</i>	Jessica Lai <a href="mailto:Jessica.lai@vuw.ac.nz">Jessica.lai@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office hours: email to make an appointment	RH 723	463 9651
<i>Duty Tutor</i>	Evan Brenton-Rule Duty Tutor Hours	To be advised via Blackboard RWW 124	
<i>Course Administrator</i>	Lee Vassiliadis <a href="mailto:lee.vassiliadis@vuw.ac.nz">lee.vassiliadis@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am-5pm (Note: Office closed 10.30am-10.45am and 3.30pm-3.45pm)	RH 708	463 5383

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

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

Assessment	Details	Weighting
Test	Open book. Tuesday 16 August 2016 from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm (RH LT1)	20%
Assignment	1000 words. Due Wednesday 21 September 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 some of the material covered in weeks 4 to 6. Note: Assignments are to be placed in boxes labelled COML 203 in the ground floor of RWW.

## 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 21st October – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November (inclusive)

## 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 2 pm on Monday 1 January but submitted at 1 pm 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.

## 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>	11 July	What is Law? New Zealand Constitution		CD
<b>2</b>	18 July	Statutory Interpretation Statutory Interpretation		CD
<b>3</b>	25 July	Resolving Business Disputes Judicial Precedent	Tutorial 1	CD
<b>4</b>	1 August	Agency Introduction to Civil Obligations		CD
<b>5</b>	8 August	Contract Law Contract Law	Tutorial 2	CD
<b>6</b>	16 August	Contract Law <b>Test: 16 August 2016, 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm</b> Contract Law		CD
		<b>Mid-Trimester Break</b> <b>22 August to 2 September 2016</b>		
<b>7</b>	5 September	Employment Agreements	Tutorial 3	JL
<b>8</b>	12 September	Introduction to Torts Torts (other than Negligence)	Tutorial 4	JL
<b>9</b>	19 September	Negligence Negligence <b>Assignment due 21 September 2016, 2.00 pm</b>		JL
<b>10</b>	26 September	ACC Real Property	Tutorial 5	JL
<b>11</b>	3 October	Personal Property Intellectual Property		JL
<b>12</b>	10 October	Intellectual Property Course Review	Tutorial 6	JL

CD=Craig Dickson

JL=Jessica Lai