

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

MMPA 509 TAXATION

Trimester 2, 2016

COURSE OUTLINE

Prescription

An in-depth examination of key aspects of New Zealand's tax regime from a domestic and international perspective. The impact of taxation on business decisions in New Zealand is also examined.

Course Learning Objectives

Students who are successful in the course will be able to:

- (a) Have an understanding of the key parts of New Zealand's public finance and key policy issues;
- (b) Understand and apply the basic principles of income tax law in New Zealand;
- (c) Determine the tax liability for a sole trader, partnership and company;
- (d) Understand how income tax is administered in New Zealand including compliance obligations of taxpayers;
- (e) Understand how taxation impacts on business decision making and how transactions can be arranged legally to minimise a tax liability including ethical issues.
- (f) Have an understanding of the implications of cross-border transactions and investment.

Course Content

This course is designed to provide an in-depth examination of key aspects of New Zealand's tax regime from a domestic and international perspective. The impact of taxation on business decisions in New Zealand is also examined.

Details of the lecture programme are provided in a table at the end of this Course Outline.

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 11th July – Friday 14th October

Study Period: Monday 17th October – Thursday 20th October

Examination Period: Friday 21st October – Saturday 12th November (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 22nd July 2016.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 23rd 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 & Lecturer</i>	Jim Ryan jim.ryan@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: Thursday 10.00 am – 11.00 am	RH 631	463 6709
<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

Wednesdays: 12.40 – 3.30 pm

Venue: RH LT3 (Rutherford House Lecture Theatre 3), Pipitea Campus

Course Delivery

Each 3 hour class will involve a mixture of lectures, class discussions and problem based assignments. A break will be scheduled approximately midway through each class.

From time to time the lecturer may specify required reading prior to a lecture. It is essential that students do this preparatory reading as the lectures will be run at a level that assumes some prior knowledge.

Readings

Required Material:

The following textbook and materials are required for this course:

1. Alley et. al., *New Zealand Taxation 2016: Principles, Cases and Questions*, Thomson Brookers, Wellington, 2016. (The 2015 editions of this text would suffice for this year's course.)
2. *New Zealand Taxation 2016 Legislation Handbook*, Thomson Brookers, Wellington, 2016. Alternatively you can use the *CCH New Zealand Income Tax Legislation 2016*.
3. Handouts distributed in lectures and/or posted on *Blackboard*.

The Thomson Brookers publications listed in (1) and (2) above may be purchased as a set at a discount.

Additional Texts and Materials:

The Thomson Brookers publications listed in (1) and (2) above may be purchased as a set at a discount.

In addition there are the following resources which you may wish to refer to if you wish to find out more about a particular topic:

1. *CCH New Zealand Master Tax Guide 2016*, CCH New Zealand Limited, Auckland 2016. (Law Library, KUQ2832 A13 N532 - some copies on Closed Reserve)
2. *CCH New Zealand Online Library* -access through MyVictoria (VUW Homepage → Log on to MyVictoria → Library Tab → Library Online Resources → Box 'C' → CCH New Zealand Online Library → Log On → Tax)

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50 or better, students must:

- complete and submit for grading the course Assignment, and
- sit both the Mid-Trimester Test and 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

Expected Workload

You should expect to spend on average 150 hours studying over the whole course which is broken down approximately as follows:

- 36 hours in scheduled classes and undertaking tests;
- 36 hours for background reading outside classes;
- 35 hours preparing and writing the Assignment; and
- 43 hours preparing for the Mid-Trimester Test and Examination.

Assessment

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see

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

Item	Specifications	%	Date	Course Learning Objective Covered
Mid-Trimester Test	75 mins; Closed Book	20%	Wednesday 10 August, 12.40 pm, in class	(a), (b) and (d)
Assignment	To be issued during the course	20%	4.00 pm, Wednesday 21 st September	(a), (b)
Examination	2 hours; Closed Book	60%	During the exam period (as below)	(c), (e) and (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 21st October – Saturday 12th November (inclusive)

Penalties

• Assignment

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.

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.

- **Tests**

Unjustifiable absence from a test will result in a mark of 'zero' for that test and may result in a student not meeting the mandatory course requirements.

Students unable to take scheduled tests due to exceptional circumstances, must complete the 'Consideration of Exceptional Personal Circumstances for Tests Application Form' available on Blackboard. Submit this form to the MPA Administrator as early as possible, preferably before the test date.

Note: The submission of an application does not mean that the test requirement has been changed or waived. Penalties, as detailed above, will apply if it is not successful.

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

While some of the classes will involve group work, none of the assessed pieces of work in this course are based on group work. The Assignment must be sole work of each student. *Any student who submits an Assignment for grading which contains evidence of plagiarism will be subject to the University's disciplinary procedures.*

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.

Materials and Equipment

Electronic calculators and non-electronic foreign language dictionaries may be used in the Mid-Trimester Test and Examination. Calculators must be battery powered and silent in operation. Calculators with alphanumeric keyboards and programming functions will not be permitted. If you are in doubt, check with the Course Coordinator.

Students are permitted to take income tax legislation into the Test and Examination. These assessments will be set assuming that students have access to their income tax legislation. To ensure that you can use your legislation in, please note the following:

1. Your legislation must not contain any additional writing or notes (other than your name) -the legislation must be “clean” as it was when it was newly printed. It is, however, permissible to emphasise text in your legislation by underlining or using coloured highlighter pens.
2. The indexing of your legislation whether by tabs, the use of “Post-it” notes or any other means is prohibited.
3. Your legislation will be checked at the beginning of the Test or Examination for compliance with these conditions.
4. Any student who does not have tax legislation to use because his/her text did not meet the above conditions or the student forgot to bring their legislation will **not** be able to borrow a replacement copy from the examiners or to share a copy with another student.

Student feedback

As a result of previous student feedback more tutorial questions, for practise, have been included in this course for trimester 2 2016.

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.

Course Lecture Programme

Week	Date	Topic
1	13 Jul	Introduction to Taxation Income Tax Act 2007 and the Core Provisions
2	20 Jul	Common Law Concepts of Income Income from a Business
3	27 Jul	Income From Employment Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT)
4	3 Aug	Personal Property Sales Land Sales
5	10 Aug	Mid-Trimester Test, in class, 75 minutes
6	17 Aug	Deductions
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK (Monday 22 August till Sunday 4 September)		
7	7 Sep	Special Deductions (Depreciation and Trading Stock)
8	14 Sep	Taxation of Companies
9	21 Sep	Taxation of Companies (continued) Assignment due 21 Sept @ 4.00 pm
10	28 Sep	Taxation of Trusts and Partnerships
11	5 Oct	Elements of GST
12	12 Oct	International Tax Issues Tax Planning and Avoidance

Note: This Lecture Programme is intended to give a general guide as to the timing of the various topics, however, some topics may take more or less time to cover than is indicated above.
