

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

MMPA 503 BUSINESS LAW

Trimester 1, 2013

COURSE OUTLINE

| Names and Contact Details | Office | Telephone |
|--|---------------|------------------|
| <i>Course Coordinator & Lecturer</i> Palitha De Silva palitha.desilva@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBA | RH 611 | 463 6960 |
| <i>Course Administrator</i> Pinky Shah pinky.shah@vuw.ac.nz Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30am-5pm | RH 728 | 463 6921 |

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 4 March – Friday 7 June

Study Period: Monday 10 June – Thursday 13 June

Examination Period: Friday 14 June – Wednesday 3 July (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 15 March 2013.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 17 May 2013. 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.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Tuesdays: 5.40-8.30pm

Venue: GB LT 3 (Government Buildings Lecture Theatre 3), Pipitea Campus

Course Delivery

Please see page 4 for an overview of the course.

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.

Expected Workload

Workload obligations for this course are 150 hours which will typically be spread over the teaching weeks and the mid-trimester break.

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 two 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 that part of the law of civil obligations which relates to the law of contracts.

Readings

The required book is:

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

Other readings: Lecture summaries and other handouts will be made available on Blackboard.

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.

Assessment

| Assessment Item | Weighting | Date |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Assignment 1 (2000 words max) | 25% | due in class on Tuesday 16 April 2013 |
| Assignment 2 (2000 words max) | 25% | due in class on Tuesday 21 May 2013 |
| Exam (Open Book; 120 minutes) | 50% | TBC – see ‘Examinations’ below |

Penalties

The due date for the Assignments will be strictly adhered to. However, if you consider you have a good reason for not meeting these deadlines, please see the course co-ordinator as soon as you know you will have this problem. Otherwise, the penalty will be 5% per day (after the due date).

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.

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:

14 June – 3 July

Mandatory Course Requirements

In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50 or better, students must obtain at least 40% for the Assignments combined.

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.

MMPA 503: Business Law
(Tuesdays 5.40pm-8.30pm, GBLT3)

| Wk | Date | Lecture Topic | Reading Material |
|--|-------------|---|---|
| 1 | 5/3 | Introduction to Law: Function, Development & Classification; Framework of Government | Chapters 1 & 2 Hubbard |
| 2 | 12/3 | Legislative Process; Treaty of Waitangi Judicial Method – Statutory Interpretation | Chapters 3, 5 & 6 Hubbard |
| 3 | 19/3 | The Structure of the Courts Judicial Method – Case Law & Precedent | Chapters 7 & 8 Hubbard |
| 4 | 26/3 | Civil Legal Obligations: Statute, Equity | <i>Chirnside v Fay</i> |
| Mid-Trimester Break (Thursday 28 March – Wednesday 3 April) | | | |
| 5 | 9/4 | Civil Legal Obligations: Contract Law The Phenomena of Agreement | Chapters 10 & 11 Hubbard |
| 6 | 16/4 | Contents of the Contract | Chapter 14 Hubbard |
| Mid-Trimester Break (Monday 22 April – Sunday 28 April) | | | |
| 7 | 30/4 | Unfair Contracts & Illegal Contracts | Chapter 13 Hubbard |
| 8 | 7/5 | Mistake & Misrepresentation | Chapters 13 & 15 Hubbard |
| 9 | 14/5 | Termination & Breach | Chapters 14 & 15 Hubbard |
| 10 | 21/5 | Contractual Remedies | Chapter 15 Hubbard |
| 11 | 28/5 | Civil Legal Obligations: Negligence | Chapter 9 Hubbard |
| 12 | 4/6 | Civil Legal Obligations: Professional Negligence | <i>Caparo v Dickman</i> <i>AG v North Shore City Council</i> |
