

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

## MMPA 509 TAXATION

Trimester 3, 2015

### COURSE OUTLINE

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<b><u>Names and Contact Details</u></b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<i>Course Coordinator &amp; Lecturer</i> Jim Ryan <a href="mailto:jim.ryan@vuw.ac.nz">jim.ryan@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office hours: TBA	RH 631	463 6709
<i>Lecturer</i> Lisa Marriott <a href="mailto:lisa.marriott@vuw.ac.nz">lisa.marriott@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office hours: TBA	RH 603	463 5938
<i>Course Administrator</i> Rebekah Sage <a href="mailto:rebekah.sage@vuw.ac.nz">rebekah.sage@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30 am-5.00 pm	RH 728	463 6921

#### **Trimester Dates**

From the week starting Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November to the week ending Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **Withdrawal from Course**

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before 27 November 2015.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is 26 January 2016.

After the last date stated in #2, 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: 5.40-8.30 pm  
Venue: GB LT3 (Government Buildings Lecture Theatre 3), Pipitea Campus.

#### **Teaching Format**

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.

## **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.*

## **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 Final Test.

## **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.

## **Readings**

### **Required Material**

The following textbook and materials are required for this course:

1. Alley et. al., *New Zealand Taxation 2015: Principles, Cases and Questions*, Thomson Brookers, Wellington, 2015. (The 2014 editions of this text would suffice for this year's course.)
2. *New Zealand Taxation 2015 Legislation Handbook*, Thomson Brookers, Wellington, 2015. Alternatively you can use the CCH *New Zealand Income Tax Legislation 2015*.
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**

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 2015*, CCH New Zealand Limited, Auckland 2012. (Law Library, KUQ2832 A13 N532 - some copies on Closed Reserve)
2. *New Zealand Income Tax Law & Practice* in 5 volumes, by David H. Simcock and John F.S. Rooke with the CCH tax editors. Loose-leaf service. (KUQ2832 N532 1986 - on Closed Reserve in the Law Library.)
3. *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)

### **Materials and Equipment**

Electronic calculators and non-electronic foreign language dictionaries may be used in the Mid-Trimester Test and Final Test. 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 Tests. 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 Tests 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.

### **Assessment**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Specifications</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Course Learning Objective Covered</b>
Mid-Trimester Test	75 mins; Closed Book	20%	Friday 18 December, 5.40 pm, in class	(a), (b) and (d)
Assignment	To be issued during the course	20%	Wednesday 27 January, 4.00 pm	(a), (b)
Final Test	2 hours; Closed Book	60%	Tuesday 16 February, 5.40 pm, in class	(c), (e) and (f)

## 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 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 have 10 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.*

- **Test**

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.*

## 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**

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

1. complete and submit for grading the course Assignment, and
2. sit both of the tests.

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.

### **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.

### **Student feedback**

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)

### **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	Lecturer	Topic
1	17 Nov	LM	Introduction to Taxation Income Tax Act 2007 and the Core Provisions
2	24 Nov	LM	Common Law Concepts of Income Income from a Business
3	1 Dec	LM	Income From Employment Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT)
4	8 Dec	LM	Personal Property Sales Land Sales
5	15 Dec	LM	Deductions
	18 Dec		<b>Mid-Trimester Test, 5.40 pm in GBLT3, 75 minutes</b>
<b>MID-TRIMESTER BREAK</b> (Tuesday 22nd December 2015 till Monday 4th January 2016 (inclusive))			
6	5 Jan	JR	Special Deductions (Depreciation and Trading Stock)
7	12 Jan	JR	Taxation of Companies
8	19 Jan	JR	Taxation of Companies (continued)
9	26 Jan	JR	Taxation of Trusts and Partnerships
	27 Jan		<b>Assignment due @ 4 pm</b>
10	2 Feb	JR	Elements of GST
11	9 Feb	JR	International Tax Issues Tax Planning and Avoidance
12	16 Feb		<b>Final Test, 5.40 pm in GBLT3, 120 minutes</b>

JR Jim Ryan; LM Lisa Marriott

*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.*

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