

## **Course Outline 2017**

### **COMLAW 101: LAW IN A BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT (15 points)**

#### **Second Semester (1175)**

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#### **Course Prescription**

Decision makers in commerce and industry require an understanding of legal structures, concepts and obligations. This course provides an introduction to the New Zealand legal system and the legal environment in which businesses operate, and also introduces legal concepts of property and the law of obligations, including detailed study of various forms of legal liability relevant to business.

#### **Programme and Course Advice**

Restriction: COMLAW 191

#### **Goals of the Course**

An introduction to the legal framework of business and government in New Zealand, including the making and interpretation of legislation, the case law system and judicial reasoning. The course also introduces students to legal concepts of property, ownership and the law of obligations, and includes detailed study of various forms of legal liability relevant to business. As well as providing a knowledge base, the course is taught with the aims of developing the skills of critical thinking and problem solving, and enhancing communication skills.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course it is expected that the student will:

1. have a sound understanding of the nature of law within the context of New Zealand's legal framework including the framework of government; the Treaty of Waitangi and its legal implications in New Zealand commerce; and how the legal system operates in providing structures for doing business and for the resolution of commercial disputes;

2. be familiar with the various sources of law: how legislation is created and interpreted by the courts, and an understanding of the case law system and judicial reasoning within the hierarchy of the New Zealand courts;
3. understand some of the more significant statutes that directly affect businesses;
4. have a general understanding of the various different legal concepts of property and ownership, including trusts and intellectual property;
5. understand how the law protects privacy and commercial secrets, understand the creation of contracts, understand the basis of liability in negligence, and have an appreciation of fiduciary obligations, and when such obligations arise, have an understanding of the application of principles of liability in specific business contexts; and
6. have a sound framework in concepts and techniques for any further Commercial Law courses;
7. be able to describe and explain legal principles and apply them to the resolution of business problems.

## Content Outline

Week 1	Introduction; Our Legal Framework (Topic 1)
Week 2	Our Legal Framework (Topic 1 continued)
Week 3	Legislation (Topic 2)
Week 4	Case law (Topic 3)
Week 5	Liability in contract (Topic 4)
Week 6	Consumer law (Topic 5), Liability for negligence (Topic 6)
Week 7	Liability for negligence (Topic 6 continued)
Week 8	Fiduciary duties (Topic 7), Privacy (Topic 8)
Week 9	Concepts of Property and Ownership (Topic 9)
Week 10	Trusts (Topic 10), Intellectual Property (Topic 11)
Week 11	Intellectual Property (Topic 11 continued), Protecting Secrets (Topic 12)
Week 12	Business structures and concepts (Topic 13)

## Learning and teaching

This course is taught in one hour lecture blocks four times per week. Some lecture time will be spent in Workshops where the law being studied is applied in a practical context through the use of case studies and the solving of legal problem scenarios.

Students are expected to prepare for, attend and participate in a number of one-hour tutorials which focus on using legal problem-solving skills in a small group situation. There are pre-advised tutorial questions. The tutorial programme is a vital component of the learning. There will be 5 tutorials throughout the semester – on average one every second week.

Online testing is also provided to assist students with their learning. Regular office hours and/or drop in clinics on particular days are offered as further assistance in an individual and informal group setting, respectively.

## Teaching staff

### Course Coordinator:

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### Course Director:

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### Other teaching staff:

Philip Cook  
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### Tutors

Mark McConnell  
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## Learning resources

Watson (et al), *Law for Business*, Akoranga Press, Auckland, 2013.

Eagles, Longdin (et al), *Law in Business and Government in New Zealand*, 4th edition, Palatine Press, Auckland, 2006. This book was previously used as a set text for this course and students may find it a useful supplement to the material in Watson (et al), *Law for Business*.

Miller, *Understanding Commercial Law*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, Lexis Nexis, Wellington, 2014.

All three of these texts are available through the University library system.

- **Course Book:** Comprehensive course materials sold at cost through the Business School Bookshop.
- **Canvas:** Various resources and information uploaded onto Canvas for online access.
- **Exams:** Copies of previous exam papers for this course are available on the University library website.

## Assessment

Test: 25% of final mark and of one hour's duration to assess learning outcomes 1 and 2.

Tutorials, aropa assignments and online quizzes: 15% of final mark. During the semester, there will be five one-hour tutorials, five online quizzes and two aropa assignments to assess learning outcomes 1–7.

Final examination: 60% of final mark and of two hour's duration. Assessment of learning outcomes 1–7; more explicitly of learning outcomes 3-7, but implicitly also of foundation knowledge and skills in learning outcomes 1 and 2.

The following table charts the assessment information:

Learning outcome	Test (30%)	Tutorials, aropa assignments and online testing (15%)	Final examination (60%)
1	✓	✓	✓
2	✓	✓	✓
3		✓	✓
4		✓	✓
5		✓	✓
6		✓	✓
7		✓	✓

### Mark Allocations:

Course Work:

Test	25%
Tutorials	5%
Canvas Quizzes	5%
Aropa Assignments	5%
Exam	60%
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Total	100%

**NOTE:** In order to pass this course you **MUST** obtain no less than 27/60 marks (45%) in the final exam **AND** at least 50/100 (50%) of the total marks awarded for the course.

## Inclusive Learning

Students are urged to discuss privately any impairment-related requirements face- to-face and/or in written form with the course convenor/lecturer and/or tutor.

## Student Feedback

Your feedback, both during the course and at its completion, is sought and encouraged. You can contact your class representatives to pass on your feedback to ensure your anonymity or you can contact the teaching or administrative staff direct. In addition, the Piazza on line platform provides a forum for feedback and questions on course material. Class representatives will be chosen from the class in the first week of lectures and their contact details posted on Canvas.