LAWS8001 Law, Gender and Sexuality - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS8001
Year : 2024
Term : Term 1
Teaching Period : T1
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice
Academic Unit : School of Law, Society and Criminology
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Postgraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course explores the way the law shapes, and is shaped by, legal responses to gender and sexuality. It draws from feminist and queer theory to analyse the operation of the law in general, and in areas specific to gender and sexuality concerns. We explore these tensions across a

range of domestic, foreign, and international jurisdictions. Topics covered in the course vary according to current debates in the field, but include: feminist and queer legal theory; anti-discrimination law; privacy law; health law; the relationships between gendered and queer identities and criminal law; law and intersectional identities; and the legal pathways to political power for people disenfranchised on account of their gender and / or sexuality.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

- provide students with an introduction to feminist and queer legal theories;

- help students understand the role of the law in creating and reinforcing identity categories that work to enfranchise or disenfranchise certain segments of society;

- provide students with the tools to critically engage with any area of the law from feminist or queer perspectives;

- to offer tools for students to think about the way the law structures and organizes power, particularly in relation to gender and sexuality.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Better understand the role of the law in creating and reinforcing categories of identity based on gender and sexuality (PLOs 1, 2)
CLO2 : Be able to critically analyse the legal system from the perspective of its effects on gender and / or sexuality; (PLOs 1, 2, 4)
CLO3 : Have a basic understanding of feminist and queer legal theories (PLOs 1, 2)
CLO4 : Be able to produce writing of high quality in a specific legal genre (judgments) (PLOs 3, 4)

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Better understand the role of the law in creating and reinforcing categories of identity based on gender and sexuality (PLOs 1, 2)	• Class Participation
CLO2 : Be able to critically analyse the legal system from the perspective of its effects on gender and / or sexuality; (PLOs 1, 2, 4)	• Judgment Outline • Feminist or Queer Judgment • Class Participation
CLO3 : Have a basic understanding of feminist and queer legal theories (PLOs 1, 2)	• Feminist or Queer Judgment • Class Participation
CLO4 : Be able to produce writing of high quality in a specific legal genre (judgments) (PLOs 3, 4)	• Judgment Outline • Feminist or Queer Judgment

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Class Participation Assessment Format: Individual	20%	
Judgment Outline Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	30%	
Feminist or Queer Judgment Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	50%	

Assessment Details

Class Participation

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

This component will assess participation in in-class discussions and, when applicable, in-class group activities and online discussions

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO1 : Better understand the role of the law in creating and reinforcing categories of identity based on gender and sexuality (PLOs 1, 2)
- CLO2 : Be able to critically analyse the legal system from the perspective of its effects on gender and / or sexuality; (PLOs 1, 2, 4)
- CLO3 : Have a basic understanding of feminist and queer legal theories (PLOs 1, 2)

<u>Detailed Assessment Description</u>

This component should be familiar to you by now. It consists of your engagement with the in-class discussions, demonstrating command of the readings, ability to think across multiple topics of the course, and ability to connect the readings to contemporary events when applicable. Simply attending the class does NOT constitute class participation, you must engage with your lecturers and fellow students.

Judgment Outline

Assessment Overview

This outline, of no more than 1,000 words, will consist of an indication of the judgment chosen, a brief summary of the original judgment, a justification of why it deserves to be rewritten as a feminist or queer judgment, and an indication of the approach to be taken by the student in undertaking this task (including references to at least 5 scholarly texts that will guide the rewriting)

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Be able to critically analyse the legal system from the perspective of its effects on gender and / or sexuality; (PLOs 1, 2, 4)
- CLO4 : Be able to produce writing of high quality in a specific legal genre (judgments) (PLOs 3, 4)

Feminist or Queer Judgment

Assessment Overview

This component is the judgment itself. The word limit is 5000 words. It will consist of a short analytical introduction, restating / refining the justification for the choice produced for the purposes of the outline, and articulating the importance of re-reading this judgment to advance the law on gender and / or sexuality (no more than 700 words). The remainder will be dedicated to the rewritten judgment.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Be able to critically analyse the legal system from the perspective of its effects on gender and / or sexuality; (PLOs 1, 2, 4)
- CLO3 : Have a basic understanding of feminist and queer legal theories (PLOs 1, 2)
- CLO4 : Be able to produce writing of high quality in a specific legal genre (judgments) (PLOs 3, 4)

General Assessment Information

Assessment 1: Class Participation

This component should be familiar to you by now. It consists of your engagement with the in-class discussions, demonstrating command of the readings, ability to think across multiple topics of the course, and ability to connect the readings to contemporary events when applicable. Simply attending the class does NOT constitute class participation, you must engage with your lecturers and fellow students.

Assessment 2: Outline of Your Rewritten Feminist or Queer Judgment

You will in this course rewrite a judgment in an existing case, whether about female or queer subjects or about any other legal topic, from a feminist or queer perspective. This outline, of no more than 1,000 words, will consist of an indication of the judgment chosen, a brief summary of theoriginal judgment, a justification of why it deserves to be rewritten as a feminist or queer judgment, and an indication of the approach you will adopt in undertaking this task (including references to at least 5 scholarly texts that will guide the rewriting).

Assessment 3: Feminist or Queer Judgment

This component is the judgment itself. The word limit is 3,500 words. It will consist of a short analytical introduction, restating / refining the justification for the choice produced for the purposes of the outline, and articulating the importance of re-reading this judgment to advance the law on gender and / or sexuality (no more than 700 words). The remainder will be dedicated to the rewritten judgment.

<u>Grading Basis</u>

Standard

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

Please see information about attendance requirements in **Law & Justice Assessment Procedure and Student Information** located in the Other Useful Information tab in the Academic Information field.

Please be advised there will be no classes on public holidays. If your class falls on a public holiday, alternative arrangements will be made by the course convenor to make up the missed class.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

All readings are available on Moodle, under the tabs for each session.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
	Lucas Lixinski					Yes	Yes
	Christine Forster					No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website.

UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy

It is essential that all students undertaking this course read and abide by the UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information. This document includes information on Class Attendance, Late Work, Word Limits, Marking, Special Consideration, Workload, and Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism. More information can also be found at Assessment & Exam Information.

Information regarding Course Outlines are subject to change and students are advised to check updates. If there is a discrepancy between the information posted here and the handbook or the UNSW Law & Justice website, please contact Student Services via The Nucleus Hub for advice. UNSW Law & Justice reserves the right to discontinue or vary such courses or staff allocations at any time. If your course is not here, please visit Handbook for information.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Before submitting assessment items all students must read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#).

Special consideration

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Feedback

UNSW Law & Justice appreciates the need for students to have feedback on their progress prior to the last date for withdrawal without failure. All courses will therefore provide feedback to students prior to this date, as well as throughout the course. However, students should note that feedback does not take the form only of formal grades and written comments on written assessments. Rather, formative feedback, which helps students to self-assess, to identify misunderstandings, and to identify areas requiring further work, will occur during class and possibly online. For example, where a teacher asks the class a question, all students should think about how they might answer. Even though not all students will necessarily be able to respond orally, everyone can reflect on their tentative answer in light of the teacher's response and subsequent class discussion. If you are struggling to understand what is being asked in class, or if your tentative answers prove incorrect and subsequent discussion does not clear things up,

then you should continue to ask questions (of yourself, your peers or your teacher). Similarly, you can get a sense of your ability in a course through peer feedback during group work, your teacher's responses to your in-class contributions, and your own response to in-class problems and examples (whether or not you are called on to relay your answer to the class) and also your online activities and responses by others to those activities. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the specific feedback used in this course.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- Student support: https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support
- Academic Skills and Support: https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing
- Equitable Learning Services: https://student.unsw.edu.au/els
- UNSW IT Service Centre: https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au

Course improvement

Student feedback is very important to continual course improvement. This is demonstrated within the Faculty of Law & Justice by the implementation of the UNSW online student survey myExperience, which allows students to evaluate their learning experiences in an anonymous way. myExperience survey reports are produced from each survey. They are released to staff after all student assessment results are finalised and released to students. Course convenors will use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the actions taken in response to evaluation feedback in Student Survey.

School Contact Information

Please contact Nucleus Student Hub for all enquiries. The Nucleus acts as a central communications hub for UNSW and will distribute your enquiry to the best person to respond.