



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS8213 Legal Concepts, Research and Writing - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS8213

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice

Academic Unit : School of Global and Public Law

Delivery Mode : Multimodal

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 introduces students to the world of law, legal systems and legal scholarship. Its objective is to enable students with little to no knowledge of law to gain understanding of basic legal concepts such as the rule of law or the functions of courts and parliaments. It introduces

students to the idea that law and lawyers work and function in a globalized environment, and the implications of that on 21st lawyering. In addition, students will gain knowledge of how to conduct high level research in law, both on domestic and international matters. The course will also dedicate some time to develop legal writing techniques, in order to prepare students for their studies and for their life in practice. Students who have completed a law degree in Australia may not undertake LAWS8213 Legal Concepts Research and Writing as part of their program.

Course Aims

The purpose of this course is to prepare students for adequate engagement with postgraduate studies in law.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Students will understand fundamental legal concepts and their operation (PLOs 1(a) and 3).
CLO2 : Students will develop knowledge of core functions of the practice of law, including statutory interpretation and the ability to read case law (PLO 1 and 3).
CLO3 : Students will develop knowledge and ability to apply key approaches to legal scholarship, including positivism, legal realism, law and society and critical legal thinking (PLOs 1, 2 and 4).
CLO4 : Students will develop knowledge about international law and its different sub categories (PLOs 1 and 3).
CLO5 : Students will formulate and execute appropriate legal research principles and strategies to meet academic and professional demands (PLOs 1, 2, 3 and 4).

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Students will understand fundamental legal concepts and their operation (PLOs 1(a) and 3).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal concepts quiz• Final Essay
CLO2 : Students will develop knowledge of core functions of the practice of law, including statutory interpretation and the ability to read case law (PLO 1 and 3).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Essay
CLO3 : Students will develop knowledge and ability to apply key approaches to legal scholarship, including positivism, legal realism, law and society and critical legal thinking (PLOs 1, 2 and 4).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal concepts quiz
CLO4 : Students will develop knowledge about international law and its different sub categories (PLOs 1 and 3).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal concepts quiz
CLO5 : Students will formulate and execute appropriate legal research principles and strategies to meet academic and professional demands (PLOs 1, 2, 3 and 4).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Log• Final Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Legal concepts quiz Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Due Date: Week 4: 17 June - 23 June
Research Log Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Due Date: Week 6: 01 July - 07 July
Final Essay Assessment Format: Individual	60%	Due Date: Week 11: 05 August - 11 August

Assessment Details

Legal concepts quiz

Assessment Overview

Online quiz, combination of multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions.

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Students will understand fundamental legal concepts and their operation (PLOs 1(a) and 3).
- CLO3 : Students will develop knowledge and ability to apply key approaches to legal scholarship, including positivism, legal realism, law and society and critical legal thinking (PLOs 1, 2 and 4).
- CLO4 : Students will develop knowledge about international law and its different sub categories (PLOs 1 and 3).

Detailed Assessment Description

This online quiz will assess your knowledge of course content covered in weeks 1-4.

Research Log

Assessment Overview

Find and cite a range of research materials relevant to the final essay. Maximum 600 words.

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO5 : Students will formulate and execute appropriate legal research principles and strategies to meet academic and professional demands (PLOs 1, 2, 3 and 4).

Detailed Assessment Description

For this assessment you will submit a short research log relating to your research for the final essay. The log will summarise your search strategy and process, including databases, Boolean search terms, sources retrieved, and brief notes on the relevance of each source to the research question. The log will also include a draft thesis statement (that is, what you think your argument is at that point in time) and some brief reflections on the research process.

Assessment Length

600 words

Final Essay

Assessment Overview

Formulate an evidence-based argument on an assigned legal topic. 1,200 words maximum (excluding footnotes).

Feedback includes formative feedback, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Students will understand fundamental legal concepts and their operation (PLOs 1(a) and 3).
- CLO2 : Students will develop knowledge of core functions of the practice of law, including statutory interpretation and the ability to read case law (PLO 1 and 3).
- CLO5 : Students will formulate and execute appropriate legal research principles and strategies to meet academic and professional demands (PLOs 1, 2, 3 and 4).

Detailed Assessment Description

This assessment requires you to formulate a clearly expressed, evidence-based argument in response to a question in the form of a legal essay. The essay question will be released to students in Week 1.

Assessment Length

1200 words

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	Introduction to law and the rule of law
	Tutorial	Introduction to law and the rule of law
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	Sources of law, law-making power, and the common law
	Tutorial	Sources of law, law-making power, and the common law
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Online Activity	There will be no classes this week, due to the King's Birthday public holiday. In lieu of the lecture and tutorial, there will be online asynchronous activities on Moodle to consolidate your understanding of the common law (introduced in week 2) and introduce concepts which will be necessary for week 4 on reading and analysing cases.
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Researching, reading, and analysing cases
	Tutorial	Researching, reading, and analysing cases
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Legal research methods, critical reading and analysis, and researching secondary sources
	Tutorial	Legal research methods, critical reading and analysis, and researching secondary sources
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Other	Flexibility Week (no classes)
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Statutory interpretation and researching legislation
	Tutorial	Statutory interpretation and researching legislation
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	Legal writing
	Tutorial	Legal writing
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	International law and international legal research
	Tutorial	International law and international legal research
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Change in Australia's legal system
	Tutorial	Change in Australia's legal system

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.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Tim Clark		Room 233, Level 2, Law Building			Yes	Yes

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 Plagiarism

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.