



## UNSW Course Outline

# LAWS3901 Honours Research Thesis - 2024

Published on the 25 Aug 2024

## General Course Information

**Course Code :** LAWS3901

**Year :** 2024

**Term :** Term 3

**Teaching Period :** T3

**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 :** Undergraduate

**Units of Credit :** 6

### Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

## Course Details & Outcomes

### Course Description

The course is designed for LLB (Honours) students and permits the learner to undertake a research project on a legal topic of his or her choice. The course is designed to develop the students' research skills and writing by exposing them to different research methods. The course

will also enhance the students' knowledge in a particular area of the law.

When enrolling in this course, the student must have a clearly defined topic which has been approved by the academic supervisor of the student. Students should approach potential supervisors to discuss a) their availability to supervise the project and b) the suitability and formulation of the topic. It is expected that this topic will be refined during the course of the term.

To help with the process of writing their thesis, students are required to attend a Research Method and Skills Workshop as part of this course. The workshop will introduce students to a range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary tools and approaches, and to their methodological requirements and assumptions, as well as to general pools of legal analysis and legal academic writing. At the completion of the workshop, students will have the tools needed to produce an original piece of research by engaging with legal research and using a distinct legal methodology. They will also have developed advanced skills in presenting and editing their own writing, as well as in providing constructive feedback on the work of others.

At the completion of the course, students will be submitting a 10,000 thesis.

## **Course Aims**

The course is designed for LLB (Honours) students and permits the learner to undertake a research project on a legal topic of his or her choice. The course is designed to develop the students' research skills and writing by exposing them to different research methods. The course will also enhance the students' knowledge in a particular area of the law.

## **Relationship to Other Courses**

This course builds on research skills developed in a range of upper level law courses, in particular, those with a major research essay as a form of assessment.

# Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Take initiative in developing and conducting legal research (PLOs 5,6,7)
CL02 : Develop a broad knowledge of the range of methodologies used in legal research and their appropriateness for addressing particular types of research questions (PLOs 5,6, 7, 13)
CL03 : Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills by articulating legal concepts clearly, persuasively and appropriately (PLOs 6, 9).
CL04 : Demonstrate critical and analytical engagement with the subject matter (PLOs 4, 7, 13)
CL05 : Locate, use and provide citation for resources appropriately in support of an argument (PLO 6).

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Take initiative in developing and conducting legal research (PLOs 5,6,7)	• Honours Research Thesis (10,000 excluding footnotes)
CL02 : Develop a broad knowledge of the range of methodologies used in legal research and their appropriateness for addressing particular types of research questions (PLOs 5,6, 7, 13)	• Honours Research Thesis (10,000 excluding footnotes)
CL03 : Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills by articulating legal concepts clearly, persuasively and appropriately (PLOs 6, 9).	• Honours Research Thesis (10,000 excluding footnotes)
CL04 : Demonstrate critical and analytical engagement with the subject matter (PLOs 4, 7, 13)	• Honours Research Thesis (10,000 excluding footnotes)
CL05 : Locate, use and provide citation for resources appropriately in support of an argument (PLO 6).	• Honours Research Thesis (10,000 excluding footnotes)

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

## Learning and Teaching in this course

A member of staff will supervise the student as they conduct an independent research project

# Assessments

## Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Honours Research Thesis (10,000 excluding footnotes)	100%	

## Assessment Details

### Honours Research Thesis (10,000 excluding footnotes)

#### Assessment Overview

The Honours Research Thesis is to be 10,000 words and will be double marked.

As part of this research Thesis, students are required to attend a Research Methods and Skills Workshop. Further the students should satisfactorily complete the assessments attached to the workshop. These assessments are the following:

- Class participation (this would include providing peer-feedback to other students on their presentations)
- 3 minutes thesis presentation
- 500 words reflection on a presentation that the student has attended. The presentation can be any seminar run by the law school (eg, seminar series...) to highlight to the students the different research skills that can be used in an academic setting. It could also relate to a presentation in another Faculty, subject to approval of the thesis supervisor.

#### Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Take initiative in developing and conducting legal research (PLOs 5,6,7)
- CL02 : Develop a broad knowledge of the range of methodologies used in legal research and their appropriateness for addressing particular types of research questions (PLOs 5,6, 7, 13)
- CL03 : Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills by articulating legal concepts clearly, persuasively and appropriately (PLOs 6, 9).
- CL04 : Demonstrate critical and analytical engagement with the subject matter (PLOs 4, 7, 13)
- CL05 : Locate, use and provide citation for resources appropriately in support of an argument (PLO 6).

#### Assessment Length

10,000

## Generative AI Permission Level

### Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

## General Assessment Information

For further information on generative AI use in the Faculty of Law & Justice, please review the section titled 'Academic Honesty and Plagiarism' under the 'Other Useful Information' tab.

### Grading Basis

Standard

### Requirements to pass course

Along with submitting the Honours thesis, students must attend a one day research skills workshop, which takes place in O-week.

## Course Schedule

### Attendance Requirements

Students must attend a one day research skills training, which takes place in O-Week. Other than that, students are supervised by a member of staff to undertake an independent research project.

## Course Resources

### Recommended Resources

Success in honours depends on a range of academic skills, including the ability to develop a research question, the selection and use of appropriate methods, and the ability to clearly articulate an argument and its stakes. You will have begun to build these in other courses, and

honours is a great opportunity to develop them further. UNSW provides a range of support for the development of research skills, including workshops and one on one sessions. Please visit <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/skills>

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Daniel McLoughlin					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.

## Generative AI

Using generative AI to conduct research or to organise your argument is not prohibited but is not encouraged. We note that the output from generative AI tools is often incorrect and almost always more superficial than is required to achieve a passing grade. Moreover, any substantive errors in the assessment, such as inappropriate references or incorrect statements, will be regarded negatively by the marker, just as they would if not generated by AI. You should limit your use of AI to simple editorial assistance, such as standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text, whether based on your own work or not. If your marker or Turnitin identify the wrongful use of generative AI in the text of your assessment submission, including the use of paraphrasing software, your assessment may be referred to the Student Integrity team for investigation. Please go to the link for further information about [referencing and acknowledging the use of artificial intelligence tools](#).

## Prohibition on use of translation apps

With limited exceptions for language study, the course of study and assessment in Australian universities must be in English (Higher Education Standard Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 1.5 6(c)).

In Law & Justice many classes have assessable class participation. This must be in English. **Use of a translation device to assist with contributions to class discussion is not allowed.** Marks for class participation may be reduced where use of translation devices is detected. Similar prohibitions apply to use of any other generative text app that is not specifically permitted by the class teacher. However, use of translation software to assist a student to understand material outside of class, or to assist with preparation for assessment is generally permitted.

Further considerations apply to LLB and JD students. International lawyers who seek to be admitted in NSW must satisfy an English proficiency test. That test is expressed as equivalent to IELTS scores of 7.0 -8.0 across the tests. It is assumed that UNSW graduates are at or above those levels of English proficiency. Use of translation apps can impede the attainment of that level of proficiency. Students should avoid behaviours that put them at risk of breach of legal requirements which can have significant consequences, including potential consequences for your admission as a lawyer.

## **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.