



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS3319 Police Powers Clinic - 2024

Published on the 28 Jan 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS3319

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 : See School

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

The Police Powers Clinic is an experiential learning program located within Redfern Legal Centre, an independent, non-profit community centre dedicated to promoting social justice and human rights. Redfern Legal Centre provides a state-wide specialist legal advice service on police

powers. In this course students will put their legal skills and knowledge to use and gain practical experience of law and policing in action. At the same time students will be critically analysing the effect of law and police practices on disadvantaged clients in a community legal centre setting. Students will be assisting Solicitors in advising clients in making complaints against the police, as well as conducting work on research, policy and community legal education under the supervision of the Police Powers Clinic convenor. Through client work, advocacy and law reform projects and a weekly 2-hour seminar, the program aims to strengthen students' practical skills in research, writing, advocacy, problem-solving, teamwork and independent judgment. Students will spend 1 day (7 hours: 9am to 5pm) at Redfern Legal Centre each week during term, excluding flexibility week. There will be a half-day induction program at the Centre which is compulsory for all students.

Course Aims

To develop knowledge of law, practice and procedure in relation to police powers and accountability;

To apply research, writing and problem-solving skills in formulating policy and legal responses to the exercise of police powers;

To develop practical lawyering skills, including drafting, interviewing and advocacy skills, while gaining experience in producing timely and professional written work that may be relied upon by other professionals;

To enhance skills required to engage professionally with a variety of stakeholders, demonstrating an understanding of ethical, political and professional accountability issues related to policing;

To develop knowledge and understanding about issues of access to justice for disadvantaged clients, and about the legal aid system and the role of community legal centres;

To think critically about the role of law and policing in society, and the role of law, lawyers and civil society in reforming police powers;

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Apply a basic understanding of law, practice and procedure in relation to the exercise of police powers and accountability. (PLO 1 & 2)
CLO2 : Apply research, writing and problem-solving skills in formulating policy and legal responses to current problems in the exercise of police powers and accountability. (PLO 6 & 7)
CLO3 : Demonstrate basic lawyering skills, including oral and written communication and drafting skills, and the ability to produce timely and professional written work-product that may be relied upon by other professionals. (PLO 9, 10, 11 & 12)
CLO4 : Engage professionally with different stakeholders demonstrating an understanding of ethical, political and professional accountability issues, related to police powers. (PLO 9, 10, 11 & 12)
CLO5 : Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of the issues of access to justice for disadvantaged clients and of the legal aid system and the role of community legal centres (PLO 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)
CLO6 : Critically evaluate the role of law and policing in society, and the role of law, lawyers and civil society in reforming police powers (PLO 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8)

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Apply a basic understanding of law, practice and procedure in relation to the exercise of police powers and accountability. (PLO 1 & 2)	• Clinic Performance
CLO2 : Apply research, writing and problem-solving skills in formulating policy and legal responses to current problems in the exercise of police powers and accountability. (PLO 6 & 7)	• Clinic Performance
CLO3 : Demonstrate basic lawyering skills, including oral and written communication and drafting skills, and the ability to produce timely and professional written work-product that may be relied upon by other professionals. (PLO 9, 10, 11 & 12)	• Clinic Performance
CLO4 : Engage professionally with different stakeholders demonstrating an understanding of ethical, political and professional accountability issues, related to police powers. (PLO 9, 10, 11 & 12)	• Clinic Performance
CLO5 : Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of the issues of access to justice for disadvantaged clients and of the legal aid system and the role of community legal centres (PLO 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)	• Clinic Performance
CLO6 : Critically evaluate the role of law and policing in society, and the role of law, lawyers and civil society in reforming police powers (PLO 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8)	• Clinic Performance

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Microsoft Teams

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Clinic Performance Assessment Format: Individual	100%	

Assessment Details

Clinic Performance

Assessment Overview

Students are assessed against their performance in relation to the course assessment criteria, and on a presentation relating to their case work or policy work. Students are also interviewed on a one-to-one basis for assessment in week 5 and week 10. Students undertake a self-assessment in week 5. This will be discussed in the second assessment interview. Students must show thorough performance and application to the client and project files, a willingness and ability to think critically about the legal process, and a capacity to adapt their manner and conduct according to the needs of the particular client or legal problem.

There is constant individual feedback and two formal assessment meetings.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Apply a basic understanding of law, practice and procedure in relation to the exercise of police powers and accountability. (PLO 1 & 2)
- CLO2 : Apply research, writing and problem-solving skills in formulating policy and legal responses to current problems in the exercise of police powers and accountability. (PLO 6 & 7)
- CLO3 : Demonstrate basic lawyering skills, including oral and written communication and drafting skills, and the ability to produce timely and professional written work-product that may be relied upon by other professionals. (PLO 9, 10, 11 & 12)
- CLO4 : Engage professionally with different stakeholders demonstrating an understanding of ethical, political and professional accountability issues, related to police powers. (PLO 9, 10, 11 & 12)
- CLO5 : Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of the issues of access to justice for disadvantaged clients and of the legal aid system and the role of community legal centres (PLO 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)
- CLO6 : Critically evaluate the role of law and policing in society, and the role of law, lawyers and civil society in reforming police powers (PLO 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8)

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Satisfactory

Requirements to pass course

Participation in the Clinic to a Satisfactory standard, including 100% attendance.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February		

Attendance Requirements

100% attendance is required for the Police Powers Clinic.

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	Vicki Sentas					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.