



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS3423 Research Thesis - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS3423

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice

Academic Unit : School of Law, Society and Criminology

Delivery Mode : Online

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

This course permits an individual student to undertake a research project on a legal topic of their choice. The project must have a clearly defined topic which has been approved by the academic supervisor of the project. Students should approach potential supervisors to discuss a) their availability to supervise the project and b) the suitability and formulation of the topic.

This is a supervised research exercise. Subject to the requirements of individual supervisors, students are expected to provide supervisors with at least a full plan for their project and one draft during the session prior to submission. Supervisors and students should negotiate at the beginning when they will meet, when work will be handed in, and what kind of feedback will be given.

For enrolment in a 6 UOC Research Thesis the following requirements must be met:

- A member of staff has agreed to supervise the project.
- The project is clearly defined and is approved by the supervisor.
- The student has a sufficient academic background in legal study to enable the thesis to be completed in a satisfactory manner (as a general rule a weighted average mark of at least 65% (Credit) in previous law courses is required.)
- Students who have recorded an academic failure in the year prior may have their application refused.
- Students who have recorded an academic failure in a research intensive course at any point in the past may have their application refused.
- A permanent or sessional member of academic staff may be the primary supervisor, but in the latter case a permanent member of staff must also be recorded on the enrolment. Generally this will be the sessional staff member's Faculty contact person.

Application Please refer to the UNSW Law website to download the Research Thesis Application Form and to access the Research Thesis Information Sheet.

Course Aims

The course aims to familiarise the student with and to develop skills in formulating research topics, conducting independent research, using individual supervision, and writing coherent, informative, and persuasive papers.

On conclusion of this course students should be able to formulate research topics, conduct independent research, engage usefully with individual supervisors, and write coherent, informative, and persuasive papers.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course builds on research skills that students may have developed in a range of upper level courses, in particular, those with a major research essay as a form of assessment. It is a prerequisite for enrolling in LAWS3434 Research Thesis: Extended

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Take initiative in developing and conducting legal research (PLO 6)
CLO2 : Demonstrate effective written communication skills by articulating legal concepts clearly, persuasively and appropriately (PLOs 6, 9)
CLO3 : Demonstrate critical and analytical engagement with the subject matter (PLOs 4, 7)
CLO4 : Locate, use and provide citation for resources appropriately in support of an argument (PLO 6)

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Take initiative in developing and conducting legal research (PLO 6)	• Assessment (7500-9000 words)
CLO2 : Demonstrate effective written communication skills by articulating legal concepts clearly, persuasively and appropriately (PLOs 6, 9)	• Assessment (7500-9000 words)
CLO3 : Demonstrate critical and analytical engagement with the subject matter (PLOs 4, 7)	• Assessment (7500-9000 words)
CLO4 : Locate, use and provide citation for resources appropriately in support of an argument (PLO 6)	• Assessment (7500-9000 words)

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

Additional Course Information

For further details, including regarding enrolment, due date, and word count, please see https://my.law.unsw.edu.au/system/files/law_documents/enrolment_information_for_ug_jd_research_thesis_updated_2021.pdf

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Assessment (7500-9000 words) Assessment Format: Individual	100%	

Assessment Details

Assessment (7500-9000 words)

Assessment Overview

A 7,500 to 9,000 word research paper due on the last day of the term in which the student is enrolled. The supervisor will examine the thesis.

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

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Take initiative in developing and conducting legal research (PLO 6)
- CL02 : Demonstrate effective written communication skills by articulating legal concepts clearly, persuasively and appropriately (PLOs 6, 9)
- CL03 : Demonstrate critical and analytical engagement with the subject matter (PLOs 4, 7)
- CL04 : Locate, use and provide citation for resources appropriately in support of an argument (PLO 6)

General Assessment Information

For further details, including regarding formatting, due date, word count, and late submission, please see https://my.law.unsw.edu.au/system/files/law_documents/enrolment_information_for_ug_jd_research_thesis_updated_2021.pdf

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

Not Applicable - as no class attendance is required

Course Resources

Recommended Resources

Success in the research thesis 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 the research thesis 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.

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.