



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Legal Process and Research

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
LAW	1201	87065	1, 2009	ONC	1.00	Springfield

Academic group:	FOBUS
Academic org:	FOB010
Student contribution band:	3
ASCED code:	090900

STAFFING

Examiner: Caroline Hart
Moderator: Eola Barnett

OTHER REQUISITES

Students are required to have access to a personal computer, e-mail capabilities and Internet access to USQConnect. Current details of computer requirements can be found at <http://www.usq.edu.au/ict/students/standards/default.htm>.

SYNOPSIS

This course provides students with an introduction to the key skills necessary to undertake their substantive law courses, including: legal citation; legal research; problem-solving and legal writing. These skills are explicitly taught and assessed throughout the course. Students will continue to build and develop these skills as they progress through the Law program. The course also provides students with discipline specific knowledge relating to Australian legal institutions; sources of law; the passage of statutes through Parliament; and the development of the common law. From this, students will develop skills in learning how to read a case, and how to interpret a statute.

OBJECTIVES

The course objectives define the student learning outcomes for a course. The assessment item/s that may be used to assess student achievement of an objective is/are shown in parentheses after each objective. On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. describe the development of the Australian legal system (Assignment 3)
2. define and discuss the fundamental basis of the legal system and sources of law (Assignment 3)
3. explain how statute law is made and interpreted (Assignment 2, Assignment 3)
4. explain how common law is developed by judges (Assignment 1, Assignment 3)
5. explain and apply the doctrine of precedent (Assignment 1)
6. explain and apply the rules of statutory interpretation (Assignment 2)
7. demonstrate the ability to research and analyse primary, secondary, domestic legal sources in both print and electronic formats (Assignment 1, Assignment 2)

8. apply methods of legal citation (Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Assignment 3)
9. identify and analyse legal issues and illustrate the ability to apply the principles dealt with in this course in a legal context (Assignment 1, Assignment 2)
10. communicate effectively and clearly the results of legal research and analysis (Assignment 1, Assignment 2).

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Introduction to the Australian legal system and legal institutions	5.00
2. The Australian Constitution and the role of the legislature, executive and judiciary	10.00
3. Sources of law - parliament and statute law	5.00
4. Sources of law - courts and judge made law	5.00
5. Introduction to legal research - secondary sources and primary sources	15.00
6. Interpretation of the law - statutory interpretation	15.00
7. Interpretation of the law - precedent	15.00
8. Introduction to legal writing and methods of legal citation	25.00
9. Overview of study skills	5.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Butterworths legal dictionary (latest edition); Cook, C, Creyke, R, Geddes, R & Hamer, D 2008, *Laying down the law*, 7th edn, LexisNexis Butterworths, Chatswood, New South Wales; and Meehan, M & Tulloch, G 2007, *Grammar for lawyers*, 2nd edn., LexisNexis, Chatsworth, New South Wales. (these are available as a package from the USQ Bookshop).

Australian guide to legal citation, 2009, 3rd edn, Melbourne University Law Review Association, Melbourne, Victoria.

Milne, S & Tucker, K 2007, *A practical guide to legal research*, Lawbook Co, Pyrmont, New South Wales.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Hall, K & Macken, C 2008, *Legislation and the art of statutory interpretation*, 2nd edn, LexisNexis Butterworths, Chatswood, New South Wales.

Hinchy, R 2008, *The Australian legal system: history, institutions and method*, Pearson Education, Frenchs Forest, New South Wales.

Macken, C 2006, *The law student survival guide: 9 steps to law study success*, Lawbook Co, Pyrmont, New South Wales.

Pearce, D & Geddes, R 2006, *Statutory interpretation in Australia*, 6th edn, LexisNexis Butterworths, Sydney, New South Wales.

Vines, P 2009, *Law and justice in Australia: foundations of the legal system*, 2nd edn, Oxford University Press, South Melbourne, Victoria.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessments	40.00
Directed Study	50.00
Lectures	39.00
Private Study	36.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
ASSIGNMENT 1	35.00	35.00	01 May 2009 (see note 1)
ASSIGNMENT 2	35.00	35.00	29 May 2009 (see note 2)
ASSIGNMENT 3	30.00	30.00	05 Jun 2009 (see note 3)

NOTES

1. Case note and case law research
2. Statutory interpretation and statute law research
3. Online computer test due at 5.00PM AEST (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them, and to study all material provided to them or required to be assessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to receive a passing grade in this course.)
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:

If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval of the examiner, then a penalty of 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment may apply for each working day late up to ten working days at which time a mark of zero may be recorded.

- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
There is no examination in this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Not applicable.
- 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6 Assessment, and 5.10 Student Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene university regulations. These regulations can be found at <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm>. Students should also read the Faculty of Business Policies and Procedures which can be found at <http://www.usq.edu.au/business/aboutfob.htm>.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Computer, e-mail and Internet access: Students are required to have access to a personal computer, e-mail capabilities and Internet access to USQConnect. Current details of computer requirements can be found at <http://www.usq.edu.au/ict/students/standards/default.htm>.
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