



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: Torts A

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
LAW	2203	87170	1, 2009	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOBUS
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOB010
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	3
<b>ASCED code:</b>	090900

### STAFFING

Examiner: Craig Burgess  
Moderator: Reid Mortensen

### REQUISITES

Pre-requisite or Co-requisite: LAW1201

### 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

The law of civil wrongs, known as torts, sets the standards of behaviour between members of society. The aim of this course is to introduce students to the theoretical basis on which the law of tort in general has developed and, in particular, the tort of negligence. Students will gain an understanding of the circumstances in which an action for the tort of negligence may lie, the elements of the cause of action, the remedies available and possible defences to the action.

### OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. understand the theoretical and historical basis on which the law of torts has developed (Assignment, Examination)
2. identify the various categories of tort - intentional, strict and negligence (Assignment, Examination)
3. apply general policies underlying the law of negligence in Australia in order to evaluate those laws, in particular for the topics considered in this course (Assignment, Examination)
4. locate and analyse primary law materials and secondary materials (as relevant) while critically reviewing an issue in law relevant to the topics considered in this course (Assignment, Examination)

5. explain the legal principles relevant to the topics considered in this course (Assignment, Examination)
6. apply such legal principles to given fact situations in order to determine the likely outcome to issues raised (Assignment, Examination)
7. demonstrate satisfactory communication skills (Assignment, Examination).

## TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Introduction to the law of torts, in particular the tort of negligence	10.00
2.	Standard of care, duty of care and damage	30.00
3.	Contributory negligence, voluntary assumption of risk and joint tortfeasors	25.00
4.	Damages	20.00
5.	Statutory provisions affecting actions for negligence	15.00

## 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).

Legislation - Civil Liability Act 2003 (Qld)

George, P 2007, *Selected chapters from defamation law in Australia*, LexisNexis Butterworths, Chatswood, New South Wales.

Sappideen C, Vines P, Grant, H & Watson, P 2006, *Torts commentary and materials*, 9th edn, Thomson, Sydney, 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.

CCH Electronic Libraries [electronic database]: Torts Law Library (Accessible via USQ Library Database Services [http://www.usq.edu.au/library/eservices/ezp\\_cch.htm](http://www.usq.edu.au/library/eservices/ezp_cch.htm))

LexisNexis AU [electronic database]: Australian Defamation Law and Practice, Torts Law Journal (Accessible via USQ Library Database Services [http://www.usq.edu.au/library/eservices/ezp\\_lexis\\_nexis.htm](http://www.usq.edu.au/library/eservices/ezp_lexis_nexis.htm))

Blay, S, Gibson, A & Richards, D 2005, *Torts law in principle*, 4th edn, Lawbook Co, Pymont, New South Wales.

Fleming, JG 1998, *The law of torts*, 9th edn, LBC Information Services, Sydney, New South Wales.

Fricke, G *Criterion of Defamation (1959) 32 ALJ 7*,

Gardiner, D & McGlone, F 1998, *Outline of torts*, 2nd edn, Butterworths, Sydney, New South Wales.

Luntz, H & Hambly, D 2006, *Torts cases and commentary*, LexisNexis Butterworths, Chatswood, New South Wales.

(revised 5th edn)

McGlone, F & Stickley, A 2005, *Australian torts law*, 3rd edn, LexisNexis Butterworths, Chatswood, New South Wales.

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

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

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
ASSIGNMENT	40.00	40.00	01 May 2009
2 HOUR EXAMINATION	60.00	60.00	END S1 (see note 1)

### NOTES

1. The examination is scheduled to be held in the end-of-semester examination period. Students will be advised of the official examination date after the timetable has been finalised.

## 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:  
This is an open examination. Candidates may have access to any printed or written material and a calculator during the examination. In line with regulation 5.6.4.2 'Use of Electronic Devices during Examinations', laptop and notebook computers are not permitted.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:  
Any Deferred or Supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next examination period.
- 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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