



LAWS11057 *Introduction to Law*

Term 1 - 2021

Profile information current as at 17/04/2024 08:15 pm

All details in this unit profile for LAWS11057 have been officially approved by CQU University and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

This unit introduces you to the study of law by examining the history out of which our law developed and examining how the law responds to the socio-legal conditions of our time. It provides you with an awareness of the institutions which are created by the law and how those institutions shape the development of the law. You will be introduced to the notion of legal reasoning: distinguishing the 'dicta' and 'obiter' of cases, precedent theory, case analysis, following and distinguishing precedent; as well as distinguishing between primary and delegated legislation. This unit introduces you to legal discourse and the conventions of the discipline which will provide a foundation for study in more advanced units.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 1*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

There are no requisites for this unit.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2021

- Online

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes - in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Online Quiz(zes)**

Weighting: 20%

2. **Learning logs / diaries / Journal / log books**

Weighting: 40%

3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 40%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from Student Feedback and Self-Reflection

Feedback

Streamline assessment requirements, reducing the number of different systems and elements required to complete assessment tasks.

Recommendation

Simplify assessment requirements, particularly in the first assessment task, to support the onboarding process for students.

Feedback from Student Feedback and Self-Reflection

Feedback

More individualised feedback for all assessments would be helpful.

Recommendation

Provide individualised feedback for all assessments.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Describe and discuss the rule of law, the nature of the Australian legal system and ethical responsibility
2. Explain how the law is made and developed in Australia
3. Demonstrate basic skills in legal research and writing using appropriate referencing standards
4. Develop basic skills in critical legal thinking, reasoning and reflection.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 20%	•			
2 - Learning logs / diaries / Journal / log books - 40%	•	•	•	•
3 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•	•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Communication	•	•	•	•
2 - Problem Solving	•	•	•	•
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•	•	•	•
5 - Team Work				
6 - Information Technology Competence	•	•	•	•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence		•	•	•
8 - Ethical practice	•	•	•	•
9 - Social Innovation				
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures				

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 20%	•		•	•		•	•	•		
2 - Learning logs / diaries / Journal / log books - 40%	•	•	•	•		•				
3 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•	•	•				•		

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Zoom

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Australian Guide to Legal Citation, 4th ed](#)
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

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Schedule

Week 1 - 08 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Exploring the Law	Byrne, Greg, 'The High Court in <i>Pell v The Queen</i> : An 'unreasonable' review of the jury's decision' (2020) 45(4) <i>Alternative Law Journal</i> 284	

Week 2 - 15 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Navigating legal information	Read the following sections in the AGLC4: 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1 - 2.4 3.1 - 3.2 3.4 - 3.6 5.1 - 5.7 6.1 - 6.4 7.11 7.15	

Week 3 - 22 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Critical thinking and using evidence	Anne-Marie Slaughter, 'On thinking like a lawyer', https://scholar.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/slaughter/files/onthinkinglikealawyer.pdf Gerald Lebovits, 'The Legal Writer, Say It Ain't So: Leading Logical Fallacies in Legal Argument - Part 1', 88 N.Y. St. B.J. 64 (July/August 2016) Gerald Lebovits, 'The Legal Writer, Say It Ain't So: Leading Logical Fallacies in Legal Argument - Part 2', 88 N.Y. St. B.J. 64 (Sept. 2016) 'The Art of Written Persuasion: From IRAC to FAILSAFE - A Compilation of Legal Problem-Solving Models', https://www.lrx.com/2008/10/the-art-of-written-persuasion-from-irac-to-failsafe-a-compilation-of-legal-problem-solving-models/	

Week 4 - 29 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Using legal sources: Rules and Principles	Kath Hall and Clare Macken, <i>Legislation and Statutory Interpretation</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 4th ed, 2015) Chapter 4 'Statutory Interpretation'	

Week 5 - 05 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Using legal sources: Precedents	Reading: Robin Creyke et al, <i>Laying Down the Law</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 10th ed, 2018), sections 6.9 - 6.20	Workbooks Due: Week 5 Wednesday (7 Apr 2021) 1:00 pm AEST

Vacation Week - 12 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Week 6 - 19 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
	Kim D Chanbonpin, 'Legal Writing, the Remix: Plagiarism and Hip Hop Ethics' (2011) Mercer Law Review, (2012) 63 Mercer LR 597	
Being a lawyer and being ethical	<i>Legal Services Commissioner v Bui</i> [2018] QCAT 424	
	Carrie Menkel-Meadow, 'When Winning Isn't Everything: The Lawyer as Problem Solver' (2000) 28 Hofstra LR 905	

Week 7 - 26 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Integrated legal problem solving	Jennifer Greaney, <i>Principles and Practice of Australian Law</i> (Lawbook Co, 4th ed, 2020), Chapter 5 'Access to Law'.	

Week 8 - 03 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Law in society	Nick Chater, 'Could we live without laws?', https://theconversation.com/could-we-live-in-a-world-without-rules-128664 Harman J, 'The Rule of Law - Law as an Instrument of Justice and a Tool of Oppression', Legal Studies Teachers Conference 15 March, 2014 Jack Goldring, 'Australian Lawyers and Social Change - 30 Years Later', https://law.anu.edu.au/sites/all/files/media/documents/events/goldring_-_30_years_later.pdf	

Week 9 - 10 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Law and changemaking	Portable, <i>Design for Justice: How technology and design can help to deliver justice better</i> (2018), report	Legal Problem Solving Exercise Due: Week 9 Wednesday (12 May 2021) 1:00 pm AEST

Week 10 - 17 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Law and justice careers	The Law Society of New South Wales, <i>FLIP: The Future of Law and Innovation in the Profession</i> , 2017, https://lawsociety.cld.bz/online-flip-report/114	

Week 11 - 24 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Prognostications and procrastinations	No set reading	Quizzes Due: Week 11 Wednesday (26 May 2021) 1:00 pm AEST

Week 12 - 31 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Job interview simulations, continued		

Review/Exam Week - 07 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Exam Week - 14 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Assessment Tasks

1 Quizzes

Assessment Type

Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description

In this unit you will be reading articles and materials that will broaden your understanding of the topics of law and justice. A quiz at the end of each module (modules 1-10) will test your comprehension and ability to apply concepts from these readings.

Each quiz will assign you four questions, drawn randomly from a bank, each worth a half mark for a total of 2% for each module. You will be required to complete the lesson activities for each module before the quiz becomes available to complete.

Number of Quizzes

10

Frequency of Quizzes

Weekly

Assessment Due Date

Week 11 Wednesday (26 May 2021) 1:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 11 Wednesday (26 May 2021)

Weighting

20%

Assessment Criteria

- Comprehension of set reading materials.
- Application of concepts from the readings to topics in this unit.
- Evaluation of propositions, using the evidence base provided by reading materials.

Referencing Style

- [Australian Guide to Legal Citation, 4th ed](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Describe and discuss the rule of law, the nature of the Australian legal system and ethical responsibility

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

2 Workbooks

Assessment Type

Learning logs / diaries / Journal / log books

Task Description

This unit emphasises practical and applied learning, to draw connections between the

reading/preparatory material and the real world context in which it is used. Each workshop is designed around a challenge that tests your skills, with the support of a small group of peers online. To evidence what you have learned, you will write individual reflective reports on each of the workshop activities in which you participate. Each will be roughly one half to one page in length and can include elements such as tables or diagrams.

Your Workbook will include a total of ten reports connected to the challenge tasks in workshops 1 to 10. These are due to be submitted at two different deadlines. Workbooks for modules 1 to 4 are due in week 5 in order to give you an understanding of your progress. The remaining workbooks, 5 to 10 are due in week 12.

Each challenge includes two different tasks. There is a compulsory core challenge task that requires preparation and participation in the weekly workshops. In addition, there is also an optional extended challenge each week that requires students to do additional work on their own initiative. Each challenge (core and extended) is worth 2 marks for satisfactory completion. It is possible to pass this unit by completing all the core challenge tasks to a satisfactory degree. If you are unable to attend any workshops, these challenge tasks may be completed in a study group that you organise with peers at your own convenience.

Assessment Due Date

Week 5 Wednesday (7 Apr 2021) 1:00 pm AEST

Workbooks for modules 1 to 4 are due in week 5 in order to give you an understanding of your progress. The remaining workbooks, 5 to 10 are due in week 12.

Return Date to Students

Week 7 Wednesday (28 Apr 2021)

Workbooks will be returned two weeks from each of the submission dates.

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

- Use creative problem solving in response to challenges.
- Report succinctly on challenge task activities and what you have learnt from them.
- Reflect on your learning process and set educational goals for the future.
- Understand how theories and concepts from the coursework integrate into practical and applied situations.
- Participate in small team activities and actively support peers' learning.

Referencing Style

- [Australian Guide to Legal Citation, 4th ed](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Describe and discuss the rule of law, the nature of the Australian legal system and ethical responsibility
- Explain how the law is made and developed in Australia
- Demonstrate basic skills in legal research and writing using appropriate referencing standards
- Develop basic skills in critical legal thinking, reasoning and reflection.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence

3 Legal Problem Solving Exercise

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

In this unit, you will be learning practical skills for working in and around the legal and justice systems. The first half of the term will teach you how to find, use and evaluate legal authorities and sources of information. To test what you have learnt, you will complete a legal problem solving exercise which will be released in week 7 and due in week 9. This will be supported by a workshop challenge in week 7 that features a hypothetical problem.

You will be assessed on your ability to explain your reasoning, the steps you took in solving the problem and the decisions that you made. In short you will need to “show your working”. The two week turnaround has, in part, been required to reduce the potential of contract cheating and also to facilitate planning skills.

Assessment Due Date

Week 9 Wednesday (12 May 2021) 1:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 11 Wednesday (26 May 2021)

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

- Understanding of legal concepts and the distinction between legal and social issues.
- Application of authorities and different sources of information.
- Reflection on learning via explanation of the steps of the process and rationale for choices made.
- Evaluation of evidence and authorities by making clear recommendations.
- Ability to work to a deadline including setting clear frameworks around project parameters.

Referencing Style

- [Australian Guide to Legal Citation, 4th ed](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Describe and discuss the rule of law, the nature of the Australian legal system and ethical responsibility
- Explain how the law is made and developed in Australia
- Demonstrate basic skills in legal research and writing using appropriate referencing standards
- Develop basic skills in critical legal thinking, reasoning and reflection.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Ethical practice

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem