



LAWS12071 Australian Employment Law

Term 1 - 2022

Profile information current as at 10/10/2025 05:17 pm

All details in this unit profile for LAWS12071 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

Regulation of employment laws represents one of the significant areas of policy difference between the major political parties in Australia. Consequently, both parties have instituted major legislative reform in this area in the last 10 years resulting in the coalition's "Work Choices" and the introduction by the Australian Labor Party of the Fair Work Act in 1990. The purpose of this unit is to allow students an overview of the common law and legislation which regulates the employment relationship within Australia. Students consider different approaches to regulation from the protective view through to economic rationalism and the libertarian approach. The unit discusses issues around entering into the employment relationship, managing and regulating the relationship and finally, ending the employment relationship.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 2*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Pre-requisite: 24 credit points of law units

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 - 2022

- 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. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 40%

2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 60%

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 Have your say

Feedback

I felt that this subject was aimed at students that had prior knowledge and background in employment law. Eg, union reps or HR. Being an 'outsider' I felt that it was targeted for all students and I was lost a lot during the term. I found it hard to reach out for help and the lectures were focussed toward students with most knowledge. Hopefully future students won't struggle like I did.

Recommendation

I recommend that learning approaches and/or strategies that suit students with limited prior knowledge of workplace/industrial relations be considered further.

Feedback from Have your say

Feedback

I enjoyed the fast pace of this unit. Learning so much in a shorter time frame was challenging but enjoyable. Victoria is always consistent in her units - filling them with knowledge!!

Recommendation

This is a comment which relates to the intensive mode of the unit, I recommend that it be retained in the light of the feedback.

Feedback from Have your say

Feedback

The assignment instructions could have been clearer. I think a lot of people got confused, especially with the group task.

Recommendation

I recommend that the instructions to the assignment be reviewed and made clearer. I also recommend an instructional video be prepared specifically for the assessments.

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Apply Australian employment law, as encapsulated in legislation and common law, to practical issues.
2. Research, analyse and evaluate primary and secondary sources of employment law in Australia.
3. Interpret legal principles in the analysis of employment law disputes to identify obligations, rights and remedies and provide solutions to these disputes.
4. Use skills in team work, communication, critical legal thinking and reasoning.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•	•	•

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
2 - Written Assessment - 60%	•	•	•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

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 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•	•	•		•				
2 - Written Assessment - 60%	•	•	•	•	•	•				

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

LAWS12071

Prescribed

Stewart's Guide to Employment Law

Edition: 7th (2021)

Authors: Andrew Stewart

Federation Press

Sydney , NSW , Australia

ISBN: 9781760023157

Binding: eBook

Additional Textbook Information

The book is available in hard copy and is also available in electronic form. The CQU library is likely to buy the book in Eform so students can access it. Students should check the cqu library website before they make a decision to purchase the book.

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Zoom (both microphone and webcam capability)

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

Victoria Lambropoulos Unit Coordinator
v.lambropoulos@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Pre-Term Access to Moodle - 21 Feb 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Preliminaries: **The reading noted here is the minimum required there may be other reading which is required - make sure you check your CQU emails/ read moodle regularly. The reason for this is that the law changes quite often in this area.	- Familiarise yourself with the moodle site, - Download materials, - Ensure you have access to prescribed text book (TB) (ether online or in hard copy), - Introduce yourself on moodle and look for a partner for team activity in assessment 1.	Self guided reading and research.

Week 1 - 07 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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PART 1 : Entering into the employment relationship	Reading: Chapters 1,2 & 3 in TB	Complete weekly exercises. Self guided reading and research.
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Week 2 - 14 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
PART 1 : Entering into the employment relationship	Reading: Chapters 4,5 & 6 in TB	Complete weekly exercises. Self guided reading and research.

Week 3 - 21 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
PART 2: Regulating and managing the employment relationship.	Reading: Chapters 7, 8 & 10 of TB	Complete weekly exercises. Continue self guided reading and research.

Week 4 - 28 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
PART 2: Regulating and managing the employment relationship - continues	Reading: Chapters 11, 12, 13 in TB we touch on chapter 14 briefly.	Complete weekly exercises. Self guided reading and research.

Week 5 - 04 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
PART 3: Ending the employment relationship.	Reading: Chapters 9 & 14 in TB	Complete weekly exercises. Self guided reading and research. Workbooks - Parts 1 and 2 Due: Week 5 Friday (8 Apr 2022) 11:55 pm AEST

Vacation Week - 11 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Vacation week	Vacation week	Vacation week

Week 6 - 18 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
PART 3: Ending the employment relationship - continues	Reading: Chapters 16 & 17 in TB	Complete weekly exercises. Self guided reading and research.

Week 7 - 25 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Part 4: Review and consolidate learning for the take home exam	Review and consolidate required reading from Parts 1,2 and 3 of unit content	Self guided reading and research.

Week 8 - 02 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Part 4: Review and consolidate learning for the take home exam	Review and consolidate required reading from Parts 1,2 and 3 of unit content.	Review and revision. Self guided reading and research.

Week 9 - 09 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Take Home Exam Preparation	Self - Guided preparation.	Take Home Written Exam Due: Week 9 Friday (13 May 2022) 12:00 am AEST

Week 10 - 16 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Week 11 - 23 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Week 12 - 30 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Review/Exam Week - 06 Jun 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Exam Week - 13 Jun 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Assessment Tasks

1 Workbooks - Parts 1 and 2

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

This assessment is a workbook. Students will be given a series of questions to prepare answers for *Part 1: Entering into the Employment Relationship* and *Part 2: Regulating and Managing the Employment Relationship*.

Students are encouraged/expected to work through these questions progressively as we go through the course in Weeks 1 - 4. We will discuss the content in the online live Zoom sessions.

Assessment Due Date

Week 5 Friday (8 Apr 2022) 11:55 pm AEST

Students are expected to have worked through the exercises progressively so the bulk of the work would have been completed by the end of week 4.

Return Date to Students

Week 7 Friday (29 Apr 2022)

Will be returned online

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

Students' work who **FAIL** this assessment will have generally displayed the following:

1. All the tasks/questions have not been completed and/or there is no attempt to answer all of the questions/tasks.
2. Did not adequately identify and discuss a relevant number of legal issues.
3. Did not adequately identify and discuss a relevant number of cases and legislation.
4. The paper is not an acceptable standard in relation to its presentation and expression because:
 - (a) is not clear and succinct and the language is not appropriate for a law assessment due to its informality;
 - (b) the structure is poor, the paper demonstrates a little awareness of structure and purpose;
 - (c) the paper has largely referenced material which is not primary and/or academically rigorous for example, online summaries and blogs.
5. Overall has not complied with the AGLC.

Students at a minimum must have completed the following in order to obtain a **PASS**

1. There has been an attempt to answer all the tasks/questions but not satisfactorily. That is, there are many significant errors in the answers.
2. Identified and discussed relevant legal issues but missed a significant number of issues most if not all of which were important issues.
3. Relevant cases and legislation identified and discussed but missed a significant number of them but not a majority of them.
4. Grammar and written expression was satisfactory but there were a large amount of errors throughout.
5. Attempt to comply with AGLC but there were significant errors throughout.

Students at a minimum must have completed the following in order to obtain a **CREDIT**

1. All of the tasks/ questions have been completed but there are some errors of which are significant in nature.
2. Identified and discussed relevant legal issues but missed some issues a minority of which were significant.
3. Relevant cases and legislation identified and discussed but missed a significant number of them but not a majority of them.
4. Grammar and written expression was satisfactory with some errors throughout.
5. Attempt to comply with AGLC but there were significant errors throughout.

Students at a minimum must have completed the following in order to obtain a **DISTINCTION**

1. All of the tasks/questions have been completed with few errors of which are minor in nature.
2. Identified and discussed relevant legal issues. Any errors were few and were mostly minor.
3. Relevant cases and legislation identified and discussed. Any errors were few and mostly minor.
4. Grammar and written expression was very good with some minor errors.
5. AGLC was followed with some minor errors.

Students at a minimum must have completed the following in order to obtain a **HIGH DISTINCTION:**

1. All of the tasks/questions have been completed with no errors or almost no errors.
2. Identified and discussed all or almost all relevant legal issues.
3. All relevant cases and legislation identified and discussed with no errors or almost no errors.
4. Grammar and written expression was excellent.
5. Followed AGLC with no errors or almost no errors.

Referencing Style

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

Submission

No submission method provided.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Apply Australian employment law, as encapsulated in legislation and common law, to practical issues.
- Research, analyse and evaluate primary and secondary sources of employment law in Australia.
- Interpret legal principles in the analysis of employment law disputes to identify obligations, rights and remedies and provide solutions to these disputes.
- Use skills in team work, communication, critical legal thinking and reasoning.

Graduate Attributes

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

2 Take Home Written Exam

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

This will be a take home written examination. The assessment may contain a mix of problem style questions and essay style questions drawn from the whole course content with a particular focus on *Part 3: Ending the Employment Relationship*.

The take home exam is intended to simulate invigilated exam conditions (as far as possible) therefore students are given a limited time period to complete the exam.

NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME ON TAKE HOME PAPERS AVAILABLE

1. Submissions after the deadline has passed will not be accepted.
2. Failure to submit by the deadline will result in a mark of zero for this assessment as the paper will not be marked.
3. Extensions are not available for take home papers.
4. Exam conditions apply to all take home papers.

The date and time of the exam will be advised to students during the term. Please ignore the dates and times below.

Assessment Due Date

Week 9 Friday (13 May 2022) 12:00 am AEST

To be submitted online

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Friday (17 June 2022)

Results released online

Weighting

60%

Assessment Criteria

Students' work who **FAIL** this assessment will have generally displayed the following:

1. All the tasks/questions have not been completed and/or there is no attempt to answer all of the questions/tasks.
2. Did not adequately identify and discuss a relevant number of legal issues.
3. Did not adequately identify and discuss a relevant number of cases and legislation.
4. The paper is not an acceptable standard in relation to its presentation and expression because:
 - (a) is not clear and succinct and the language is not appropriate for a law assessment due to its informality;
 - (b) the structure is poor, the paper demonstrates a little awareness of structure and purpose;
 - (c) the paper has largely referenced material which is not primary and/or academically rigorous for example, online summaries and blogs.
5. Overall has not complied with the AGLC.

Students at a minimum must have completed the following in order to obtain a **PASS**

1. There has been an attempt to answer all the tasks/questions but not satisfactorily. That is, there are many significant errors in the answers.
2. Identified and discussed relevant legal issues but missed a significant number of issues most if not all of which were important issues.
3. Relevant cases and legislation identified and discussed but missed a significant number of them but not a majority of them.
4. Grammar and written expression was satisfactory but there were a large amount of errors throughout.
5. Attempt to comply with AGLC but there were significant errors throughout.

Students at a minimum must have completed the following in order to obtain a **CREDIT**

1. All of the tasks/ questions have been completed but there are some errors of which are significant in nature.
2. Identified and discussed relevant legal issues but missed some issues a minority of which were significant.
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Referencing Style

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Submission

No submission method provided.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Apply Australian employment law, as encapsulated in legislation and common law, to practical issues.
- Research, analyse and evaluate primary and secondary sources of employment law in Australia.
- Interpret legal principles in the analysis of employment law disputes to identify obligations, rights and remedies

- and provide solutions to these disputes.
- Use skills in team work, communication, critical legal thinking and reasoning.

Graduate Attributes

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

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