



LAWS13010 Evidence and Proof

Term 3 - 2023

Profile information current as at 04/05/2024 10:22 pm

All details in this unit profile for LAWS13010 have been officially approved by CQUUniversity 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

LAWS13010 Evidence and Proof examines the major features of evidence law and procedure, both statutory and common law, and the major sources of judicial interpretation relevant to a general study of the role, sources and foundation of the law of evidence and a trial procedure, of pre-trial obligations and of rules concerning the burden and standard of proof. Specific topics include: The relevant sources of the law of evidence and procedure; fair trials, proof and adversarialism, including principles underpinning accusatorial justice; Evidentiary issues to be addressed before trial: disclosure, notices and requests; forms of evidence; evidentiary principles and rules, and exceptions to the rules; the bases for privilege including legal professional and client privilege; judicial warnings, comment and directions; and mandatory and discretionary exclusions and the limitations on evidence. This unit meets the LPAB requirements for evidence. This unit also carries content to support Criminal Procedure.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 3*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Pre-requisite: 48 credit point of law

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 3 - 2023

- 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: 20%

2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 20%

3. **Take Home Exam**

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 UC

Feedback

Incorporate more practical examples in the unit content

Recommendation

In the live zoom sessions more discussion of the practical application of evidence law from the media and the profession will be referred to.

Feedback from UC

Feedback

Incorporate more discussion on the ethical issues which may arise in practice.

Recommendation

The learning materials will highlight some of the ethical issues faced by solicitors and barristers in practice

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Interpret and apply common law and statutory rules of evidence in the Queensland and Commonwealth jurisdictions, including indigenous perspectives
2. Identify and discuss ethical challenges in the application of Evidence Law, particularly in relation to cross-examination technique, and the use of privilege
3. Critically analyse a body of evidence and discuss its admissibility and probative value
4. Research and present relevant cases and statutory sources, to utilise evidence law and its authoritative interpretation to respond to authentic legal problems

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 - 20%	•	•		
2 - Written Assessment - 20%			•	•
3 - Take Home Exam - 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 - 20%	•	•	•	•			•			
2 - Written Assessment - 20%	•	•	•	•						
3 - Take Home Exam - 60%	•	•	•							

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

LAWS13010

Prescribed

Queensland Evidence Law

6th Edition (2022)

Authors: David Field, William van Caenegem and Clair Duffy

LexisNexis

Chatswood , NSW , Australia

ISBN: 9780409355338

Binding: Paperback

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

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

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

Rachel Boivin Unit Coordinator

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Schedule

Week 1 - 06 Nov 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction: Nature and sources of evidence law	David Field, <i>Queensland Evidence Law</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 5th ed, 2020), Chapter 1	
Onus and Standards of Proof		

Week 2 - 13 Nov 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Relevance and Admissibility	David Field, <i>Queensland Evidence Law</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 5th ed, 2020), Chapters 1 & 2.	
Presumptions		
Judicial Notice		
Judicial Discretion		

Week 3 - 20 Nov 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Methods of Proof Competence and Compellability	David Field, <i>Queensland Evidence Law</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 5th ed, 2020), Chapters 3, 4 & 5	Written Assessment Due: Week 3 Friday (24 Nov 2023) 11:59 pm AEST
Week 4 - 27 Nov 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Oral Evidence Privilege	David Field, <i>Queensland Evidence Law</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 5th ed, 2020), Chapters 5 & 6	
Vacation Week - 04 Dec 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Week 5 - 11 Dec 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Examination of Witnesses	David Field, <i>Queensland Evidence Law</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 5th ed, 2020), Chapter 6	
Week 6 - 18 Dec 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The Rule against Hearsay	David Field, <i>Queensland Evidence Law</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 5th ed, 2020), Chapter 9	
Vacation Week - 25 Dec 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Week 7 - 01 Jan 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Exceptions to the Hearsay Rule (Common Law, Statutory, Res Gestae)	David Field, <i>Queensland Evidence Law</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 5th ed, 2020), Chapters 9 & 10	Experiential Written Assessment Due: Week 7 Friday (5 Jan 2024) 11:59 pm AEST
Week 8 - 08 Jan 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Admissions and Confessions	David Field, <i>Queensland Evidence Law</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 5th ed, 2020), Chapter 12	
Week 9 - 15 Jan 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Documentary and Real Evidence	David Field, <i>Queensland Evidence Law</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 5th ed, 2020), Chapter 3	
Week 10 - 22 Jan 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Circumstantial and Character Evidence	David Field, <i>Queensland Evidence Law</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 5th ed, 2020), Chapters 3 & 8.	
Week 11 - 29 Jan 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Opinion Evidence	David Field, <i>Queensland Evidence Law</i> (LexisNexis Butterworths, 5th ed, 2020), Chapter 11	

Week 12 - 05 Feb 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Criminal procedure and Evidence	Refer to Week 12 Study Guide	

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Take Home Examination		Take Home Paper Due: Exam Week Monday (12 Feb 2024) 11:45 pm AEST

Assessment Tasks

1 Written Assessment

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

This assessment is in the form of a research essay and it is designed to test students' knowledge of the course based on topics covered in the first 2 weeks of the term. You will be required to write a short research paper on issues covered in the first two weeks of the unit. The word count should not exceed 1500 words.

Assessment Due Date

Week 3 Friday (24 Nov 2023) 11:59 pm AEST
to be submitted online

Return Date to Students

Week 6 Monday (18 Dec 2023)
to be returned online

Weighting

20%

Assessment Criteria

Mark	General Criteria
85%+	Excellent writing style – concise, clear and well-organised. Appropriate structure – including strong introduction, logically constructed body and conclusion. Clearly identifies scope of topic. Displays very high-level understanding and analysis of the law of evidence as it applies to all of the issues raised in the question. Presents a compelling reasoned argument supported with strong authority and sophisticated engagement with the literature. Very few or no spelling or grammatical errors. Very few or no errors in referencing style. Displays excellent research skills.
75-84.5%	Very good writing style, with only a few expression issues. The assignment is logical and structured. Keeps to task after identifying the topic clearly and accurately. Displays high level of understanding and analysis of the law of evidence as it applies to most of the issues raised in the question. Presents a reasoned argument, largely supported by good authority and sophisticated engagement with the literature. Few spelling and grammatical errors and few errors in referencing style. Displays very good research skills.
65-74.5%	Good writing style. May be some grammar and spelling errors and/or some errors in referencing. Defines topic adequately. Does not include much in the way of extraneous material. Demonstrates a good understanding and analysis of the law of evidence as it applies to some of the issues raised in the question but at times addresses them superficially or gives them inappropriate weight. Some gaps in reasoning, but largely supported by good authority and good engagement with the literature. Displays good research skills.
50-64.5%	Generally adequate writing style. Some grammar and spelling errors and/or some errors in referencing. Attempt to define topic but sometimes fails to keep to task. Inclusion of extraneous unnecessary material. Demonstrates an adequate understanding and analysis of the law of evidence as it applies to some of the issues raised in the question. At times the analysis is incorrect, and although there may be adequate engagement with the literature there are gaps in reasoning and at times the issues identified need to be addressed in more depth. Largely descriptive with little analysis. Too much reliance on secondary sources. Displays adequate research skills.

<50% Poor writing style, poorly organised and difficult to understand manner of expression. Long convoluted sentence structure, numerous grammar and spelling errors. Numerous errors in referencing. Inadequately defines topic. The assignment may be significantly shorter than required length. Displays fundamental flaws in understanding of the law of evidence. Displays misunderstanding of the issues raised in the question and engages superficially (eg. By only repeating material from study guide/lecture material). Research skills require improvement. Inadequate research demonstrated, insufficient or incorrect authority – either due to lack of authority or reliance on inappropriate authorities. Largely descriptive effort with very little analysis and inadequate engagement with the literature.

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Interpret and apply common law and statutory rules of evidence in the Queensland and Commonwealth jurisdictions, including indigenous perspectives
- Identify and discuss ethical challenges in the application of Evidence Law, particularly in relation to cross-examination technique, and the use of privilege

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Cross Cultural Competence

2 Experiential Written Assessment

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

This task will test students' knowledge of topics covered in Weeks 3 to 6 and it will be made up of hypothetical problem-based questions. You will be required to solve the problem questions using your knowledge of evidence law with the aid of both primary and secondary legal sources. The word count should be no more than 1500 words.

Assessment Due Date

Week 7 Friday (5 Jan 2024) 11:59 pm AEST
to be submitted online

Return Date to Students

Week 10 Monday (22 Jan 2024)
to be returned online

Weighting

20%

Assessment Criteria

Mark	General Criteria
85%+	Excellent writing style – concise, clear, logical and well-organised. You have identified all the correct issues, demonstrated an exceptional understanding of the relevant law (and always support your accurate statements of law with the most appropriate authority); applied the law to the facts in a manner that is outstandingly thorough, precise, and focused; arguing with clarity; and including in your answer an insightful analysis of the more difficult or obscure aspects of the problem. Very few or no spelling or grammatical errors. Very few or no errors in referencing style. Displays excellent research skills.
75-84.5%	Very good writing style, with only a few expression issues. You have identified the correct issues frequently, have explained the relevant law thoroughly and precisely (frequently supporting your statements of law with the most appropriate authority); applied the law to the facts of the problem in a way that demonstrates an ability to very competently use the law to solve problems; and made a clear argument. The assignment is logical and structured. Few spelling and grammatical errors and few errors in referencing style. Displays very good research skills.

65-74.5%	Good writing style. You have identified most of the correct issues, have explained the relevant law thoroughly and precisely (usually supporting your statements of law with the most appropriate authority); applied the law to the facts of the problem in a way that demonstrates an ability to competently use the law to solve problems; and made an appropriate argument. May be some grammar and spelling errors and/or some errors in referencing. Displays good research skills.
50-64.5%	Generally adequate writing style. Some grammar and spelling errors and/or some errors in referencing. You have identified the main issues, but at times you have dealt with irrelevant issues or expressed them inaccurately or unclearly or in insufficient depth; you have explained the main relevant laws (usually supported by relevant, but not necessarily the most appropriate authority); made a satisfactory attempt to apply the law to the facts of the problem (but sometimes inconsistently); and made a competent argument. Displays adequate research skills.
<50%	Poor writing style, poorly organised and difficult to understand manner of expression. Long convoluted sentence structure, numerous grammar and spelling errors. Numerous errors in referencing. The assignment may be significantly shorter than required length. You missed the main issues and have explained the relevant law in a way that is completely or partially incorrect; you may have misunderstood the facts or failed to satisfactorily apply the law to the facts of the problem; and/or presented an unjustified, illogical, inappropriate or impractical conclusion. Research skills require improvement.

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Critically analyse a body of evidence and discuss its admissibility and probative value
- Research and present relevant cases and statutory sources, to utilise evidence law and its authoritative interpretation to respond to authentic legal problems

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy

3 Take Home Paper

Assessment Type

Take Home Exam

Task Description

The final assessment will evaluate student's general knowledge of the law of evidence through mostly hypothetical problem questions.

Task Description

1. This unit has an invigilated take-home examination of 2.5 hours (150 minutes) duration. Students should consult the Invigilated Take-home Examination Guidelines, College of Law, Criminology and Justice, available from the Laws Moodle site.
2. A requirement of these guidelines is that students must obtain a student card for verification purposes - see https://sportal.cqu.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1113/Information-Sheet-Student-ID-Card-2017.pdf.
3. Students must also have access to a reliable and adequate internet connection, and a computer, tablet, or laptop equipped with a working webcam, working microphone, Zoom installed and access to the unit Moodle site via an Internet browser.
4. No extensions are permitted for invigilated take-home examinations.
5. Submissions after the deadline has passed will not be accepted and will receive a mark of zero.
6. Failure to attend the invigilated take-home examination will result in a mark of zero.
7. Exam conditions apply to all invigilated take-home examinations.

Assessment Due Date

Exam Week Monday (12 Feb 2024) 11:45 pm AEST

Take home paper due date to be advised.

Return Date to Students

Results to be released following certification of grades.

Weighting

60%

Assessment Criteria

This assessment will be assessed according to the following criteria: quality of the statement of the legal issue(s) (10%), and rules/legal principles (30%); correct and thorough analysis and application of the rules and legal principles to the legal issue(s) (40%); well thought-out conclusion (10%), and quality of the language usage and observance of proper structure, format, and instructions (10%).

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

It is very important to note that extensions and late submissions will not be accepted for this assessment. Late submissions will receive a mark of zero.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Interpret and apply common law and statutory rules of evidence in the Queensland and Commonwealth jurisdictions, including indigenous perspectives
- Identify and discuss ethical challenges in the application of Evidence Law, particularly in relation to cross-examination technique, and the use of privilege
- Critically analyse a body of evidence and discuss its admissibility and probative value
- Research and present relevant cases and statutory sources, to utilise evidence law and its authoritative interpretation to respond to authentic legal problems

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking

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