



# **LAWS14003 Dissertation A**

## **Term 1 - 2018**

Profile information current as at 20/05/2024 02:03 am

All details in this unit profile for LAWS14003 have been officially approved by CQUniversity 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

Legal professionals are required to solve complex legal problems by conducting research, critically analysing authorities through interdisciplinary knowledge and transmitting concepts to different audiences including clients, other professionals and public organisations. In this unit you will conduct research into a legal issue agreed with your supervisor, critically examine the problem and prepare a written analysis suitable for publication. Over the duration of the two terms of your honours course you will develop a specialised knowledge in this field of law and apply advanced legal research skills in critical analysis, design of research projects and transmission of results. You will work closely with an academic supervisor and with your peers to cultivate a research community and develop your capacity to provide and respond to feedback on progress. On completion of this unit you will have produced a body of research work that demonstrates professional expertise in a variety of career destinations and forms appropriate evidence of academic research skills attainment for admission into higher degrees.

### Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 4*

Credit Points: 12

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.25

### Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Enrolment in CH75 Bachelor of Laws (Honours)

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 - 2018

- Distance

### 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 12-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 25 hours of study per week, making a total of 300 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. **Portfolio**

Weighting: 20%

#### 2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 80%

### 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 discussions

##### Feedback

Further develop student research skills prior to commencement

##### Recommendation

We have introduced a core undergraduate research unit that will assist future honours students.

## Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Conduct legal research and attain advanced theoretical and technical knowledge of a specialised area of law
2. Analyse critically, evaluate and transform knowledge of legal authorities and critical academic commentaries
3. Scope, design and conduct a research project independently with the ability to adapt to changing circumstances
4. Transmit knowledge and ideas in an academic research context
5. Collaborate with academic supervisors and peers in a research community, providing and responding to feedback.

## Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



### Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Portfolio - 20%	•	•	•	•	•
2 - Written Assessment - 80%	•	•	•	•	•

### Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Communication	•	•	•	•	•
2 - Problem Solving	•	•	•	•	•
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•	•	•	•	•

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
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 - Portfolio - 20%	•									
2 - Written Assessment - 80%	•									

## 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)

## Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Australian Guide to Legal Citation, 3rd ed](#)  
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

## Teaching Contacts

**Scott Beattie** Unit Coordinator  
[s.beattie@cqu.edu.au](mailto:s.beattie@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

**Week 1 - 05 Mar 2018****Module/Topic**

As a dissertation unit, students will conduct independent study and hold regular meetings with their supervisor and mentor.

**Chapter**

Ron Adams, *Demystify your thesis* (Victoria University 2013)  
Kate Williams, *Planning your dissertation* (Palgrave Macmillan 2013)

**Events and Submissions/Topic****Week 2 - 12 Mar 2018****Module/Topic**

Independent study

**Chapter****Events and Submissions/Topic****Week 3 - 19 Mar 2018****Module/Topic**

Independent study

**Chapter****Events and Submissions/Topic****Week 4 - 26 Mar 2018****Module/Topic**

Independent study

**Chapter****Events and Submissions/Topic**

**Problem Analysis and Dissertation Plan** Due: Week 4 Monday (26 Mar 2018) 8:00 am AEST

**Week 5 - 02 Apr 2018****Module/Topic**

Independent study

**Chapter****Events and Submissions/Topic****Vacation Week - 09 Apr 2018****Module/Topic****Chapter****Events and Submissions/Topic****Week 6 - 16 Apr 2018****Module/Topic**

Independent study

**Chapter****Events and Submissions/Topic****Week 7 - 23 Apr 2018****Module/Topic**

Independent study

**Chapter****Events and Submissions/Topic****Week 8 - 30 Apr 2018****Module/Topic**

Independent study

**Chapter****Events and Submissions/Topic****Week 9 - 07 May 2018****Module/Topic**

Independent study

**Chapter****Events and Submissions/Topic****Week 10 - 14 May 2018****Module/Topic**

Independent study

**Chapter****Events and Submissions/Topic****Week 11 - 21 May 2018****Module/Topic**

Independent study

**Chapter****Events and Submissions/Topic****Week 12 - 28 May 2018****Module/Topic**

Independent study

**Chapter****Events and Submissions/Topic****Review/Exam Week - 04 Jun 2018**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Exam Week - 11 Jun 2018</b>		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
		<b>Dissertation Paper</b> Due: Exam Week Monday (11 June 2018) 8:00 am AEST

## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Problem Analysis and Dissertation Plan

#### Assessment Type

Portfolio

#### Task Description

A legal research project requires careful planning and scoping before substantive research and writing can begin. Once you have established a research topic with your supervisor and course mentor, you will develop a portfolio of resources which map out your plan and establish the foundation of your dissertation. This portfolio will include:

- A statement of your research topic, expressed as a critical argument
- An analysis of jurisdictional issues and map of regulatory networks
- An overview of the current field of research, including key stakeholders and important research voices and significant publications
- A project plan stating key timelines such as meetings with your supervisor and deadlines for drafts being available for feedback
- Other material that your supervisor or course mentor may require.

This portfolio will be due in week four to allow your supervisor and course mentor to be able to provide timely feedback.

#### Assessment Due Date

Week 4 Monday (26 Mar 2018) 8:00 am AEST

#### Return Date to Students

Week 6 Monday (16 Apr 2018)

#### Weighting

20%

#### Assessment Criteria

- Design of research topic and problem solving skills
- Planning and time management
- Research methodology
- Critical analysis of legal and interdisciplinary issues
- Clear and professional expression of project outcomes and elements

Full rubric is available on the unit site.

#### Referencing Style

- [Australian Guide to Legal Citation, 3rd ed](#)

#### Submission

Online

#### Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Conduct legal research and attain advanced theoretical and technical knowledge of a specialised area of law
- Analyse critically, evaluate and transform knowledge of legal authorities and critical academic commentaries
- Scope, design and conduct a research project independently with the ability to adapt to changing circumstances
- Transmit knowledge and ideas in an academic research context
- Collaborate with academic supervisors and peers in a research community, providing and responding to feedback.

#### Graduate Attributes

- Communication

- Communication
- Communication
- Communication
- Communication
- Communication
- Communication

## 2 Dissertation Paper

### Assessment Type

## Written Assessment

## Task Description

As an honours student you will attain specialised knowledge in a field of law that you will develop through two dissertation papers, each of an appropriate length for publication in an academic journal (6000-8000 words). These two papers should be connected in theme and will typically involve a more general overview of the field in Dissertation A followed by a more detailed investigation of a specific issue in Dissertation B.

It is crucial that your supervisor is aware of your progress and has the opportunity to view early drafts and to provide feedback on these. These timelines are negotiated in your portfolio assessment item and you are responsible for managing these.

### Assessment Due Date

Exam Week Monday (11 June 2018) 8:00 am AEST

### Return Date to Students

Papers will be returned within two weeks and submitted for external review.

## Weighting

80%

### Assessment Criteria

- Statement of an innovative research problem and argument design
- Legal and interdisciplinary research methodology
- Critical analysis of legal and interdisciplinary data and theories
- Investigation of the social and ethical context of the problem
- Professional presentation of final dissertation

Full rubric is available on the unit site.

## Referencing Style

- [Australian Guide to Legal Citation, 3rd ed](#)

## Submission

Online

### Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Conduct legal research and attain advanced theoretical and technical knowledge of a specialised area of law
- Analyse critically, evaluate and transform knowledge of legal authorities and critical academic commentaries
- Scope, design and conduct a research project independently with the ability to adapt to changing circumstances
- Transmit knowledge and ideas in an academic research context
- Collaborate with academic supervisors and peers in a research community, providing and responding to feedback.

## Graduate Attributes

- [illegible]

## 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