

LEGL1001: Foundations of Law

PSB Singapore

Trimester 3 - 2023 (Singapore)



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description

The law impacts our daily lives in ways particularly evident for those engaged in business, commerce, public service, and professions. This course introduces the Australian legal system, its legal sources and the court system. Then, it focuses on the law of contract as one of the building blocks of business transactions while introducing other areas of potential legal liability for businesses. A professional conducting business requires a basic understanding of the law regulating torts, consumer protection, employment, agency, and business structures. Students are also equipped with a tool for analysing and solving legal problems transferable to other subjects relevant to business and commerce professionals. In the end, this course provides foundational knowledge to identify opportunities and risks for businesses to navigate Australian legal institutions and think globally.

Contact Hours

PSB Singapore Online Activity

Online

2 hour(s) per Week for Full Term

Students will complete specific readings from the text and online learning activities provided via Canvas.

Seminar

Face to Face On Campus

2 hour(s) per Week for Full Term

Face to Face On Campus or Online via Zoom on Canvas.

Unit Weighting Workload

10

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10-unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au

CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Newcastle Dr Eliezer Sanchez-Lasaballett e.sanchez-Lasaballett@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4921 8666
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School Office	PSB Academy Enquiries Ph: +65 6390 9000 Log your question or request to the PSB Program Executives at the following website: http://www.psb-academy.edu.sg/enq

SYLLABUS

Course Content

- MODULE 1: The Australian legal system
- The concept of law
 - The Australian legal system
 - Finding and applying the law
- MODULE 2: The law of contract
- Contract formation
 - Contract enforceability
 - Contract terms and exclusion clauses
 - Contract termination and remedies
- MODULE 3: Other areas of law affecting business
- The tort of negligence
 - Consumer protection
 - Employment and agent-principal relationships
 - Business structures

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the principal features of the Australian Legal System;
2. Identify the key areas of the law facilitating running a business and the sources of potential liabilities;
3. Outline the main legal requirements for creating and enforcing a contract;
4. Outline some of the main legal requirements for establishing the tort of negligence, a breach of consumer protection, the employment and the agent-principal relationship, and the key business organisations; and
5. Apply a problem-solving method to key areas of law covered during the course.

Course Materials

The prescribed text is:

Nickolas James and Timothy Thomas, [*Business Law*](#) (6th edition, 2021) Wiley.

The prescribed text for this course is an essential resource and the course content, activities and assessment assume that students are in possession of the text.

The text is available as an e-book or hard copy through the library.

Another suggested textbook is Andy Gibson and Sarah Osborne, [*Business Law*](#) (11th edition, 2020) Pearson.

SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	6 Sep	Introduction	Using Canvas & Textbook	
2	13 Sep	The concept of law	Online and classroom activities	
3	20 Sep	The Australian legal system	Online and classroom activities	
4	27 Sep	Finding and applying the Law	Online and classroom activities	Online MCQ 1 (10%)
5	4 Oct	Contracts 1: essential elements (formation)	Online and classroom activities	
6	11 Oct	Contracts 2: additional elements (enforceability)	Online and classroom activities	In-class group/individual case-law summary task (10%)
Mid Trimester Break				
8	25 Oct	Contracts 3: terms & exclusion clauses	Online and classroom activities	
9	1 Nov	Contracts 4: termination & remedies	Online and classroom activities	
10	8 Nov	Torts: Negligence	Online and classroom activities	Individual IRAC (20%) on Sun 12 Nov 11:59 PM (SGT)
11	14 Nov	Consumer Protection & Privacy Law	Online and classroom activities	
12	22 Nov	Employment & Agency	Online and classroom activities	
13	29 Nov	Business Structures and Exam Review	Online and classroom activities	Online MCQ 2 (10%)
14	6 Dec	Revision for Final Exam	Online and classroom activities	
Final Exam Period: 20 December 2023 9:30 AM (SGT)				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has four (4) assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Online Multiple-Choice Question Tests 1 & 2	In weeks 4 and 13	Individual	20% (10% x 2)	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Group/Individual Case-Law Task	In class in week 6: Wed 11 Oct	Group / Individual	10%	2, 3, 5
3	Individual IRAC Task	Sun 12 Nov 11:59 PM (SGT)	Individual	20%	2, 3, 5
4	Final examination	Wed 20 Dec 9:30 (SGT)	Individual	50%	2, 3, 4, 5

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible, maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late.
Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Multiple choice quizzes

Assessment Type	Online Quiz
Description	Two online tests each of which consists of 10 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) worth one mark towards the final grade
Weighting	20% (10% each)
Due Date	In weeks 4 and 13
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	One mark for each correct Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ)
Return Method	Marks will be available on Canvas
Feedback Provided	Correct answers will be available on Canvas and/or discussed in class after each test

Assessment 2 - Case Law Summary and IRAC method

Assessment Type	Group/individual learning activity
Description	This task aims to scaffold and assess the skills required to apply the IRAC method to a legal problem by effectively summarising a court judgment. To join a group, each student must bring an individual case summary to the class. The individual summary must be handwritten/typed in the English language.
Weighting	10%
Due Date	In class in week 6: Wed 11 Oct
Submission Method	The group/individual submission will be computer typed and submitted via a Turnitin link available on Canvas
Assessment Criteria	The group/individual submission will receive marks based on the correct use of the English language when identifying key legal issues, legal rules, parties' arguments, court reason(s) for the judgment, and final outcome (conclusion) of the case. Correct use of the English language includes clarity of written expression and the quality of arguments used to summarise the judgment
Return Method	Marks will be available on Canvas
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be provided using SpeedGrader and available on Canvas

Assessment 3 – Individual IRAC Task

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	The purpose of this task is to scaffold and assess the skills required to apply the IRAC method to a legal problem effectively
Weighting	20%
Due Date	Individual IRAC Task due on Sun 12 Nov 11:59 PM (SGT)
Submission Method	Turnitin via Canvas
Assessment Criteria	Marks will be allocated in accordance with a rubric provided to students. Students will receive marks based on the legal issues identified, legal rules adopted, logical application of rules to the relevant facts, clarity and quality of arguments, and a pertinent conclusion. Correct use of the English language must be observed.
Return Method	Marks will be available on Canvas
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be provided using SpeedGrader and available on Canvas

Assessment 4 - Final open book examination

Assessment Type	Formal Examination
Description	The final exam aims to assess students' comprehension of key legal concepts relating to the topics covered in the course and their ability to apply the IRAC method to simple legal problems. The exam will consist of 10 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) (2 marks each) and 2 IRAC questions (15 marks each). This exam will be an OPEN book examination. Unlimited notes and textbooks are allowed.
Weighting	50%
Due Date	During the formal exam period on Wed 20 Dec 2023 9:30 AM (SGT)
Submission Method	Online Examination. Further instructions will be provided in the exam revision in week 14.
Assessment Criteria	For MCQs, marks will be allocated based on the correct response. For the IRAC questions, marks will be allocated based on the correct identification and application of relevant rules to relevant legal issues, the application of rules to the relevant facts, clarity of written expression, and the quality of arguments used to support conclusions on how the problem should be solved.
Return Method	No return
Feedback Provided	No feedback provided

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include emails, one-to-one consultation, and discussion forums in Canvas.

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Oral Interviews

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course, an oral examination may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination Guidelines](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work, the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

Adverse Circumstances

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Coordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying, you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>.

Important Policy Information

The 'HELP for Students' tab in UoNline contains important information that all students should be familiar with, including various systems, policies and procedures.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original. © 2023 The University of Newcastle, Australia