Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre

EPHUMA 147: Law in Australia

Ourimbah

Semester 1 - 2024

The Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre recognises and respects the unique history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education. The Centre is committed to providing a culturally safe and inclusive environment for all.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Law in Australia is an introduction to the Australian legal system which examines the sources of Australian law, legal institutions and their processes and gives an overview of basic legal concepts, terminology and principles. It also aims to explain and develop writing, researching and referencing skills needed for undergraduate study at university.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Contact Hours

Lecture
Face to Face On Campus
2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

Tutorial
Face to Face On Campus
1 hour(s) per week(s) for 11 week(s) starting Week 2

Unit Weighting

10

Workload

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

COURSE OUTLINE

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator   **Ms Susie Wright**
Susie.Wright@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation: Please email to schedule an appointment.

Teaching Staff   Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

School Office

Callaghan	**Ourimbah**
Ground Floor, General Purpose Building (GP)	HO 168, Humanities Building
Ph: 02 4921 5558	Ph: 02 4348 4076
enabling@newcastle.edu.au	enabling@newcastle.edu.au

SYLLABUS

Course Content
- What is law?
- History and structure of the Australian legal system
- Democracy and the rule of law
- Federalism and the separation of powers
- Sources and divisions of the law
- Legislation and cases
- Academic writing skills including essay planning, paragraphing and rubrics
- Research skills and effective use of the university library
- Academic integrity and referencing

Course Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Describe the Australian legal system, key legal concepts and terminology.
2. Identify the major sources and categories of law in Australia.
3. Apply academic, research, referencing and essay writing skills.
4. Locate, organise and analyse legal information from a variety of sources including legislation and cases.

Course Materials   All course materials will be provided on the course Canvas site. Students are not required to purchase a textbook.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction	No tutorial in Week 1	
2	4 Mar	Law in society	Academic journal articles	
3	11 Mar	Research & Rubrics	Referencing	Quiz 1
4	18 Mar	Australian legal system	Annotated bibliography support	Quiz 2
5	25 Mar	Separation of Powers	Annotated bibliography support	Quiz 3 Annotated Bibliography Sunday 31st March 9.00pm
6	1 Apr	Separation of powers	Federalism	Quiz 4
7	8 Apr	Essay Writing	Separation of powers	Quiz 5
		Recess		
		Recess		
8	29 Apr	Laws made by Parliament	Essay support	Quiz 6
9	6 May	Laws made by Judges	Essay support	Quiz 7 Essay Sunday 12th May 9.00pm
10	13 May	Legal Profession	Case Study	Quiz 8
11	20 May	Court system	Case Study	Quiz 9
12	27 May	Landmark cases	Written Assignment support	Quiz 10
13	3 Jun	No Lecture	No Tutorial	Written Assignment Sunday 9th June 9pm
		Examination Period		
		Examination Period		

ASSESSMENTS

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

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Annotated Bibliography	Sunday 31st March 9.00pm	Individual	15%	2, 3, 4
2	Essay	Sunday 12th May 9.00pm	Individual	25%	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Weekly Online Quizzes	Sundays 9.00pm Weeks 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
4	Written Assignment	Sunday 9th June 9.00pm	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4

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 5% 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.

Failure to complete a weekly quiz before the due date will result in a zero mark for that quiz. Weekly quizzes cannot be submitted late without prior approval from the Course Coordinator. If you experience adverse circumstances and cannot complete a quiz before the deadline, please contact the Course Coordinator via email.

Assessment 1 - Annotated Bibliography

Assessment Type	Annotated Bibliography
Description	A citation/reference of a source of information followed by a summary or analysis of the source, which may be an academic journal article, a book or a website. 400 words (+/- 10%) including words already on the answer template. Any words after the maximum word limit will not be included within the allocation of marks.
Weighting	15%
Due Date	Sunday 31st March 9.00pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback provided in Canvas

Assessment 2 - Essay

Assessment Type	Essay
Description	A focused piece of writing that develops an idea or argument using evidence, analysis and interpretation. 1500 words (+/- 10%) Any words after the maximum word limit will not be included within the allocation of marks.
Weighting	25%
Due Date	Sunday 12th May 9.00pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback provided in Canvas

Assessment 3 - Weekly Online Quizzes

Assessment Type	Quiz
Description	10 weekly short tests of knowledge of weekly lectures, tutorials and notes, consisting of 10 questions each week, usually multiple choice.
Weighting	30%
Due Date	Sundays 9.00pm Weeks 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Correct answers
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback provided in Canvas upon completion of the quiz

Assessment 4 - Written Assignment

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	A series of short open-ended questions that require concise and focused answers that may be factual, interpretive or a combination of the two. The questions will be about a stimulus such as, but not limited to a movie, book, legislation, or journal article. 1500 words (+/- 10%). Any words after the maximum word limit will not be included within the allocation of marks.
Weighting	30%
Due Date	Sunday 9th June 9.00pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided on Canvas
Return Method	This assessment will not be returned
Feedback Provided	No feedback will be provided for this assessment

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.

Communication Methods

Email is the principal form of communication at the university and within this course. Always use your student email (NUmail), rather than a private email address, and check this regularly. As Course Coordinator I will try to respond to your email within three (3) working days. I will not normally respond to emails over the weekends. Please be courteous in your email communication and in the online space.

Canvas is used to distribute course material, announcements and other information. It is also used for online quizzes and to allow students to track their individual progressive assessment results throughout the semester via Grades.

Discussions forums in Canvas can be used to ask questions about minor issues. Students are strongly encouraged to use these to communicate with each other, discuss issues relating to the course, and solve minor problems.

Attendance and Engagement

In addition to face-to-face hours in class, out-of-class study and related work will require an additional commitment of up to 10 hours per week of reading, preparation, and study time over the semester. Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact hours including assessment) per semester per 10 unit course.

To maximise your learning opportunities, you should read all relevant material prior to attending class.

It is strongly recommended that you attend your classes every week. Our data shows that you will get better results if you attend class with your peers. If you do have to miss a class, you should catch up on any missed work by accessing lecture recordings if you are enrolled face-to-face. While online tutorials are recorded, on-campus tutorials are not, so you should view other resources available on your Canvas site and contact your course coordinator if you would like advice on how to best catch up on any material that was missed. **If you are unable to attend classes regularly you should reach out to your course coordinator as soon as possible to discuss ways that you can continue to engage with the learning material.**

A plan of regular revision throughout the semester is also strongly recommended to help you manage your time, consolidate information and retain that knowledge for the duration of

the course and beyond.

Assessment items have been designed to reinforce and revise the course material, and ensure you are up to date with course content. You are required to submit all assessable items by the due dates unless prior arrangements have been made.

Additional Contact Details

If you have any questions about your course, please speak with your course coordinator, lecturer or tutor first. For general enquiries, please contact the Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre Office or your Student Liaison Officer. Contact details for both the office and Student Liaison Officers can be found here.

Yapug students can also contact your Indigenous Enabling Learning Advisor Hannah Pipe or your Program Convenor Dan Collins.

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 Adverse Circumstances must be lodged via the online Adverse Circumstances system for all individual assessment items worth 30% or greater **by 11:00pm on the day the assessment is due**. For assessment items less than 30%, you will need to contact your Course Coordinator by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure and the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Policy.

Please note that students must submit their adverse circumstances application via the online Adverse Circumstances system by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item, even if you are using a Reasonable Adjustment Plan (RAP) as your supporting documentation.

Written Assessment Word Limits

If this course includes written assessments, the word limit listed will include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. You will not receive a penalty for exceeding the word limit (there is a tolerance of up to 10%), but any work after the maximum word limit may not be included within the allocation of marks.

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. Please refer to the Student Academic Integrity Policy.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) 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 (viva) Procedure. 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.

Workplace Health and Safety Requirements

There are no specific WH&S requirements for this course.

Software

Free Microsoft Office software is available to enrolled students here and includes 5 TB of free cloud storage with OneDrive.

Timetable

Your timetable for this course is available via the myUni Student Portal and can also be found here.

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.

| **Important Policy Information** | The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the [policies and procedures](#) that support a safe and respectful environment at the University. |